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THE TOY REVOLUTION

The life of tomorrow's child

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BATTLE OF THE QCs

Music hall or solemn justice?

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THE FLIGHT OF SKILLS

Football on the decline

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French fallout uncovers cabinet strains

Major bids to halt Maastricht revolt

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Pound slumps: The pound fell sharply yesterday as dealers anticipated a base rate cut which never came. By the Bank of England close sterling stood at DM2.5456, meaning sterling effectively has been devalued by 13.7 per cent from its former mid-point of DM2.95 in the exchange-rate mechanism. The stock market closed 6.9 points down at 2560.1. Page 17

THE prime minister sought yesterday to defuse a renewed Conservative revolt over Europe by promising a "profound look" at the future of the Community when EC leaders meet at the emergency summit that he has called for next month.

As the growing ranks of the Tory Eurosceptics seized on the wafer-thin French endorsement of the Maastricht treaty to declare it dead, John Major acknowledged that the cause of European unity had been damaged by the scale of the French opposition and Britain's forced withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. The vote

settled at 51.05 per cent in favour of Maastricht with 48.95 per cent against and 30 per cent abstaining.

Mr Major's strategy appears to be to wait for the storm generated by the devaluation of the pound to die down in the hope that EC leaders can eventually press ahead with an amended treaty. He will not bring back the bill ratifying the treaty until Denmark has made clear where it stands.

It was clear last night however that Mr Major's search for a compromise will be bitterly resisted by the diehard anti-federalists in his party. James Cran, Tory MP for Beverley, predicted "trench warfare" in the Commons if the prime minister brings back the bill. Lord Tebbit, the former Tory party chairman,

said the treaty had been "knocked completely off the rails" and joined other anti-marketisers in demanding a British referendum on economic and political union.

The fallout from the French referendum produced renewed signs of cabinet strains. Remarks made by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington, were interpreted by the Eurosceptics as signalling support for a plebiscite. "The French referendum has demonstrated the need to consult public opinion to see that it is taken into account," he said.

But Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Downing Street sources immediately ruled out such a step. Downing Street said Mr

Lamont had been referring to the British tradition of deciding such matters through parliamentary democracy.

Mr Hurd's remarks are likely to anger the Eurosceptics, who are increasingly coming to see Mr Lamont and his readiness to accept a floating pound as a potential ally in their battle to force the government to change tack. Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, accused Mr Lamont of returning to the "monetarist and isolationist excesses of Thatcherism".

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary and a leading pro-European, went further than the prime minister in declaring that the Maastricht treaty would survive the present uproar. "The British government negotiated the Maastricht treaty, signed the Maastricht treaty, fought an election having signed the treaty, and got a huge majority on the second reading of the bill in the House of Commons," he said on Radio 4's *The World at One*.

In an article in yesterday's *Evening Standard* Mr Major portrayed himself as sensitive to the arguments advanced by opponents of Maastricht, saying he had found a battle against those who wanted greater integration and much more authority for Brussels.

The government had won vital safeguards for Britain, preserving the freedom of action to stand aside from economic and monetary union. "We are not committed to the goal of a single currency. We can decide not just when to join a single currency, but whether to join at all."

Mr Major insisted that Britain would not rejoin the ERM until its flaws had been put right. It is understood that he wants to see a better system of central bank support for an ailing currency. At the same time

Full analysis, pages 2-3
Nicholas Ridley, page 12
Woodrow Wyatt, page 12
Leading articles and letters, page 13
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Lamont looks on the bright side

WAS it just gallows humour, or was Norman Lamont, that notoriously cheerless of bad tidings, actually a happy man?

At first the Chancellor tried to deny all accusations of good humour. When challenged to explain the broad grin on his face at his press conference in Washington, he insisted that he was no more or less cheerful than he had always been.

But the celebrated pursed lips, twinkling eyes and busy eyebrows gave him away. The other finance ministers were all wearing their usual lugubrious demeanours as they awaited the French referendum result. The central bankers were looking as solid and upright as tree trunks. So for Mr Lamont, the contrast meant that the game was up.

He reflected for a moment, perhaps recalling that British politics had entered a new and more honest phase after the devaluation. Then he blurted out his confession: "My wife said she'd never heard me singing in the bath until last week."

Mr Lamont's sudden cheerfulness suggested that he knew something the world would love to know, but was not telling. That something might have been the knowledge that he would resign on Thursday and return to a quiet life in the Scottish Highlands. More likely, however, Mr Lamont had a card up his sleeve which could transform him from a universal scape-

An enigmatic smile suggests imminent retirement or a cut in rates, writes Anatole Kaletsky

goat into Britain's most popular politician in the space of a few weeks.

The sophisticated way of trying to guess the nature of Mr Lamont's hidden trump card is to look at the Bank of England's dealings in the money market, assess the fluctuations in three-month inter-bank rates, or calculate the rate of discount on short sterling futures. All these suggest that a cut in interest rates is on the way, but that it may be no more than a paltry half-point.

The cruder, but probably more reliable, technique was to look into the eyes not only of Mr Lamont, but also of his entourage of Treasury and Bank of England officials.

If the cheerfulness of the entire British delegation in Washington was attributable to gallows humour, then it was not just the Chancellor but the entire Treasury and Bank of England that was due for the chop. The relief among all the British officials was palpable in every conversation. They seemed to be itching to get back to their desks, to face the brave new world of economic

Continued on page 16, col 7



Uncertain future: Dr Cox leaving court with his girlfriend, Jennifer Green

GMC to decide on doctor's future

By JEREMY LAURANCE

NIGEL Cox, the hospital consultant given a 12-month suspended prison sentence yesterday for attempting to murder a dying patient, could continue with his career if the General Medical Council decides not to strike his name off the medical register.

Dr Cox, who said that he was devastated by the jury's verdict, faces an investigation by the council, which controls the register of doctors permitted to practise in Britain.

His case is to be referred to the preliminary proceedings committee, possibly next month, which will decide whether he should be brought before a full public hearing of the council.

There is likely to be a strong feeling among the committee, which includes two lay members, that Dr Cox has suffered enough at the hands of the court and should not be subjected to the ordeal of a further hearing. But the counter argument will be that the public could lose confidence in the profession if the council took no action following a conviction for attempted murder.

"I will need an awful lot of convincing that the public needs protecting from Dr Cox," said Dr Michael O'Donnell, a member of the preliminary proceedings committee. "But the attitude of the two lay members will carry a lot of weight. If they decide we should go ahead it will be very difficult for the doctors to decide otherwise."

If the case goes forward to a full public hearing, the council could reject the court's finding and accept that Dr Cox's primary intention was to relieve pain, not to shorten life. If it finds him guilty it could publicly admonish him, suspend him from the register temporarily or erase his name completely, which would end his career.

Betrayal of duty, page 5
Janet Daley, page 12

Two killed in blast at chemical plant

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO people died and 15 were injured by an explosion which ripped through a chemical plant and office block near the centre of Castleford in west Yorkshire yesterday. The toll could have been higher had not many staff been off the site on their lunch break.

The blast happened at 1.30 pm as a routine maintenance check was carried out at one of the main distilleries of the Hickson and Welch chemical company. More than 100 firemen and 17 fire engines were called to the scene.

A number of the injured, including at least one fireman, were treated for burns. Others were treated for the effects of chemical contact.

Some casualties were taken to Pinderfields hospital in

Wakefield, which contains the regional burns unit, while others went to the Pontefract general infirmary. A number were released after treatment for shock.

For a time residents were warned to stay indoors and remove any clothing that might have been contaminated. It was more than two hours before emergency services were able to confirm that a cloud of smoke over the plant was not toxic.

David Fyfe, managing director of Hickson and Welch, said that the explosion occurred when maintenance work on a tank holding hundreds of gallons of liquid nitro-toluene went wrong. The chemical is used in making a

Continued on page 16, col 1

BBC drama series provokes wrath of the Paras

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC accustomed to coming under fire, is now facing the wrath of the senior hierarchy of the Parachute Regiment over a new television drama series which begins tonight. The Ministry of Defence is also displeased.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Gray, colonel commandant of the regiment, has appealed to Sir Michael Checkland, director-general of the BBC, to intervene over the series which he claims is "grossly inaccurate" and "highly damaging" to the reputation of British soldiers. General Gray has sent Sir Michael a list of more than 50 alleged errors and "implausible scenarios" in the series about paratroopers leaving the army and competing for jobs as civilians.

The complaints are directed at *Civies*, a BBC series written by award-winning author Lynda La Plante. The MoD refused to have anything to do with the

programme when the BBC originally sent a synopsis of the storyline.

General Gray yesterday said he admired the author's previous work which includes the acclaimed drama series *Prime Suspect*. However, he said the new series gave a bad impression of the Parachute Regiment and of the army.

In his letter to Sir Michael, General Gray said the series came at an unfortunate moment for all the armed services. Under *Options for Change*, the government's defence review, the army was being cut back by 40,000 by 1995 "and the message to be passed to prospective employers, not to mention soldiers awaiting discharge, is hardly encouraging and quite unrepresentative of the real situation".

The general made his complaint after reading the book *Ms La Plante* has written on the series. While he appreciated the story was fictional, "by innuendo it reflects much that is objectionable to a soldier and is grossly inaccurate". Since

the aim was to "show a failure to prepare our young men to be civies", he said it was surprising that there was no mention of the army resettlement courses and other assistance given to soldiers about to leave the forces.

General Gray said the Parachute Regiment enjoyed its tough reputation. But the characters portrayed in the series were "over the top". "All the characters are real. I recognise them but they are the exception, not the rule," he said. He has asked Sir Michael "to redress the imbalance". Among the list of alleged errors, the general said karate and kickboxing were not taught to paratroopers as a skill.

A spokesman for BBC drama said General Gray would receive a reply from Sir Michael and the points he had raised would be studied. However, he emphasised that the complaints were made on the basis of the paperback, not the television series, and that *Civies* was a fictional drama, not a documentary.



General Gray: series shows army in bad light

ON OTHER PAGES

Molyneux in Dublin

The leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, James Molyneux, yesterday became the first Unionist leader in 70 years to negotiate in Dublin with ministers of the Irish republic about the future of Northern Ireland.

He had more than four hours of talks on obstacles in building new relationships between the north and south. Page 16

Body identity

Police are expected to confirm that the second body found in a forest south of Sydney is that of Caroline Clarke, 22, a British tourist. Page 4

Book famine

British schools, short of funds, say they cannot afford basic books. Extracts have to be photocopied according to an independent report. Page 7

Briton killed

A Briton, Edip Sadioglu, was among seven foreign Muslims killed in Yugoslavia when their convoy was hit by a shell in the town of Mostar. Page 10

ERM warning

Economists have warned Norman Lamont that the government's search for anti-inflationary measures to follow the discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism could ruin its credibility. Page 2

Shops sold

Sears, best known as owners of Selfridges and the Saxe shoe shops chain, has pulled out of menswear retailing by selling its 350 Fosters and Your Price menswear shops to their management. Page 17

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Kohl speech on
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Labour party
conference
begins in
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John Smith
addresses party
conference

OCTOBER 5

EC foreign
ministers discuss
wider
membership in
LuxembourgDanes and French
give their verdict:
one fudge too many

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE'S "yes" vote created a brief frisson of excitement among the draftsmen of the Maastricht treaty, who have been forced to watch the fruit of their work battered by critics throughout a long damp summer. But yesterday the euphoria wore off rapidly as the implications sank in.

Since the Danes rejected the treaty on June 2, it has met only setbacks. The hair's breadth majority in France may be enough to save President Mitterrand from premature departure from office, but it is nowhere near large enough to save the sinking treaty. European Community leaders are locked in a pattern of promises to each other that have provoked widespread scepticism and mistrust among their citizens.

Some opposition to Maastricht may subside, but the Danish and French campaigns have left one conclusion imprinted on the minds of the prime ministers who will meet under John Major's chairmanship in October: that Europe's citizens think that the treaty's disjunctive compromises are one fudge too many.

In New York last night, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, might well have reminded his EC colleagues

that the Maastricht summit ignored Machiavelli's advice on high-level negotiation: "It is an error for princes to come together in their persons to consummate what their envoys have failed to do."

But Mr Hurd was much more likely to have given his counterparts a recital of other business that the Community can tackle, irrespective of the chaos over Maastricht. Most EC governments are sure that this is a diversionary tactic to distract attention from ratification headaches in London.

The traffic of meetings, min-

THE TREATY

utes and messages between EC chancellors, which always precedes a summit, will revolve around one question: can Maastricht be railroaded through all 12 states with only cosmetic changes — or must we all think again?

The idea of reopening the treaty, defined as 250 pages of text and 17 protocols, fills most governments — except the British and Danish — with horror. In a renegotiation, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, might feel unable to agree the programmed disappearance of the mark.

His poll ratings are plummeting at home and his coalition is paralysed by morose internal squabbling and fierce attacks from outside.

The Bundesbank has forced the exchange-rate mechanism into a looser and more adjustable framework, breaking out of the untenable French insistence that currencies supposedly en route to merger should not realign.

Germany is not scheduled to finish ratifying the treaty in parliament and senate until early December. Rows there will cross-infect arguments in both Britain and Denmark. With the tide of opposition still rising, Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, need be in no hurry to spell out what he wants done to the treaty. The largest party in the Danish parliament, the Social Democrats, is gradually forcing him to line up a long shopping list of amendments. Danes do not like compulsory monetary union, future European defence or Brussels bureaucracy and want to keep control of immigration and welfare.

Britain, holding the EC's rotating presidency, is supposed to draft reassuring "clarifications" to be tacked on the back of the treaty without altering the sacred text itself. In theory, a Danish government armed with those concessions could have a more user-friendly treaty approved in a new referendum next spring. At the same time, optimists say, the House of Commons would plough on with all-night sittings to ratify the government's Maastricht bill. But either battle can hold up the other and the last state to ratify can wreck the entire treaty by refusing. The system provides a built-in incentive for Euro-sceptics to wait until the last moment to extract the largest concessions.

It is odd enough that Europe's leaders won't recognise this tangle for the insurmountable obstacle that it is. The British government's failure to draw the obvious conclusion is bizarre. The prime minister and foreign secretary have missed a precious opportunity over the past three months to warn their partners that the treaty has to be truly changed.

Ministers are terrified of being caught fiddling with the treaty text.

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LABOUR

Smith prepares to
paper over cracksBY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, is expected to fudge party policy over both Maastricht and the exchange-rate mechanism in the face of growing pressure from shadow cabinet members to re-think the party's pro-European stance.

A policy paper which will be put to the national executive committee and the shadow cabinet tomorrow is likely to favour a system of stable or managed exchange rates but will not commit Labour to re-entering the ERM in its present form. It will call for a mechanism to guard against speculation and will support an anti-inflationary strategy with action to boost the economy. The paper, which was being hastily drawn up yesterday, will argue that Britain's future lies in Europe but that any decision on Maastricht should be postponed until

after the Danish position becomes clear.

Mr Smith's determination to paper over the cracks in the party and avoid confrontation coincided with further public statements from his shadow cabinet colleagues.

David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, called for Labour to change the emphasis of its policy, while John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, said Maastricht was dead and could not be adapted for the Danes. Bryan Gould, shadow heritage minister, said the government's decision to put Maastricht and the ERM on the back-burner removed any obligation for Labour to press for either.

Meanwhile Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, accused Norman Lamont of returning to the "monetarist and isolationist excesses of Thatcherism".



The morning after: currency dealers at BZW in the City bring their individual styles to bear on a day of post-referendum trading. Pound slumps, page 17

Lamont warned of risks in
new anti-inflation policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE government's search for anti-inflationary measures to follow the discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism could run its credibility, economists said yesterday.

Norman Lamont announced on Sunday that the government planned to return to using money supply,

ECONOMIC
STRATEGY

among other indicators, rather than the foreign exchange rate, as the most reliable economic measure. The disclosure was coupled with the suggestion that such targets would not be published.

Last night, the Chancellor's move was welcomed by the so-called "Liverpool Six" group of free-market economists, including Sir Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Baroness Thatcher. In a letter to *The Times*, they called for significant interest rate reductions, the Bank of England to

be independent of government to achieve price stability, and for public spending cuts.

Professor Tim Congdon, one of the authors of the letter, said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday: "In the 1980s we attacked growth and money supply and that period, while not perfect, was fairly successful. Since 1987, we have based policy on the foreign exchange, which has been a complete disaster."

However, Professor David Begg, professor of economics at Birkbeck College, London, said that the creation of "secretive" targets would do little to bolster the government's credibility.

Treasury draws
up hit list for
spending cuts

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

TREASURY officials are drawing up a list of options for changes and cuts in public spending plans throughout Whitehall to meet the cabinet's decision to hold next year's total down to the planned limit of £244 billion.

The new cabinet committee on public spending, known as EDX and chaired by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, held its first pathfinder meeting last Thursday when officials were told to prepare a list of options. These will be considered when the committee meets next week.

This follows Mr Lamont's warning in Washington that "With sterling now floating outside the exchange rate mechanism, a rigorous approach to public spending will be even more important."

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade and a member of the committee, said yesterday in Aberdeen: "In government, we will now be forced to intensify our search for both savings and expenditure restraint. We are going to face a difficult public expenditure round, that is already clear."

These comments are partly intended to prepare spending ministers, as well as the public, for some hard decisions since the prime minister has insisted that, unlike past years, there can be no slippage in the total above the limit of £244.5 billion for 1993-4.

Some programmes may have to be cut back to finance unavoidable extra spending on social security, the introduction next April of the council tax and the new system of community care.

Only after next week's meeting of EDX will departments know what they may have to save. The options are expected to include a tight squeeze on current spending, including public sector pay.

The government has come under pressure from the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors not to cut spending on capital projects such as roads, hospitals, prisons, schools and British Rail and instead to squeeze current expenditure.

But that would raise difficult political decisions about cut-backs on social security spending, so ministers are wary of

making commitments yet. Defence is expected to face big cuts both in short and long-term spending. In the last financial year, an extra £530 million was agreed, mainly due to the cost of replacing equipment lost in the Gulf war. It is possible to delay further some of the projected equipment programmes such as an aviation support ship for the Royal Navy and the next batch of Type 23 frigates, but the effect on the budget would not be apparent for several years.

The only real potential for short-term savings is in manpower, which accounts for 43 per cent of the budget. Under the "Options for Change" defence exercise, the armed forces are due to be cut by an average of 18 per cent by 1995.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, may have to make do with less than the 2.8 per cent real terms increase

SPENDING

promised for the NHS in the public expenditure white paper to bring its budget up to £30 billion.

The hospital building programme is likely to be hit and pay for doctors and nurses could be squeezed. Funds for community care to be transferred to local authorities next April are also vulnerable.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, is understood to be bidding for £3 billion extra on his £76 billion budget, £2 billion of which will go to fund the larger than expected increase in unemployment. The demand for other benefits, including family credit and income support has also been underestimated.

Teachers' pay accounts for the largest share of the education budget, and is already certain to be squeezed in the next financial year. A pay freeze could not be ruled out. Planned rises in expenditure on school buildings could also be at risk.

John Patten, the education secretary, committed himself only last Friday to maintaining the financial advantages enjoyed by grant-maintained schools, so his options are limited.

Heseltine: a difficult
spending round aheadBottomley: budget rise
may be pared back

Split over Europe will not go away

MAJOR'S DILEMMA

For all the prime minister's efforts, the EC remains the main fault line in the Tory party, Peter Riddell writes

JOHN Major has developed two styles as prime minister — a cautious whip leaving open all his options and a stubborn leader defending issues of principle. The mixture has at times been confusing and has exposed him to charges both of evasion over Maastricht and of inflexibility over sterling.

He has now reverted to his whip's instincts as he faces the collapse of two central pillars of his premiership, sterling's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism and Britain being at the heart of Europe. Mr Major has seemed to lose control over what has been happening.

The initiative has been seized by Tory opponents of the Maastricht treaty, like Sir Teddy Taylor, William Cash, and Nicholas Budgen and the tide of opinion has been running in their direction. Mr Major's immediate response has been to play for time, to reiterate his long-term European strategy

while being ambiguous about his short-term tactics over the Maastricht treaty. There is no sign that he is retreating from his aim of putting Britain on the inside track of Europe. He will use the British presidency, and the emergency council of EC heads of government in London next month, to secure a common approach. He will seek to shift attention to completion of the single market, the Uruguay round of trade talks and relations with the new democracies of eastern Europe, on which the Tory party is united and enthusiastic.

One participant in last week's discussions emphasised that "the clear conclusion of Thursday's Cabinet

meeting was that most ministers would really like to go back into the ERM". But the Treasury has been cautious. In the short term, this is not a live issue, though there will be a fine balance between the political desire to cut interest rates and the worries of advisers that any cut should not be so large as to risk a further big drop in the pound and higher inflation. Some pro-EC ministers are worried that the change of policy since Baroness Thatcher's resignation could be under threat.

Mr Major does not want to risk confrontation with party critics at present. Any early Commons debate would be hazardous with Tory opponents of the treaty

gaining support and Labour likely to be obstructive. So he is putting off resolution of the issue until after the London summit and until Denmark has made its intentions clear.

Meanwhile, Mr Major hopes to use the interval to allay public fears over the EC. That leaves open the question of whether this will lead to a more fundamental re-think, which could seriously divide the Cabinet, or will be followed by the revival of the treaty presented in suitably modest form.

Mr Major faces eventual party divisions whichever way he finally decides on ERM re-entry and on Maastricht. By failing to take a lead now, however, he risks leaving Britain squeezed out yet again by a new Bonn-Paris axis. To adapt his own phrase about the ERM, Mr Major has discovered that, for all his efforts as Prime Minister, Europe remains the main fault line in the Tory party.

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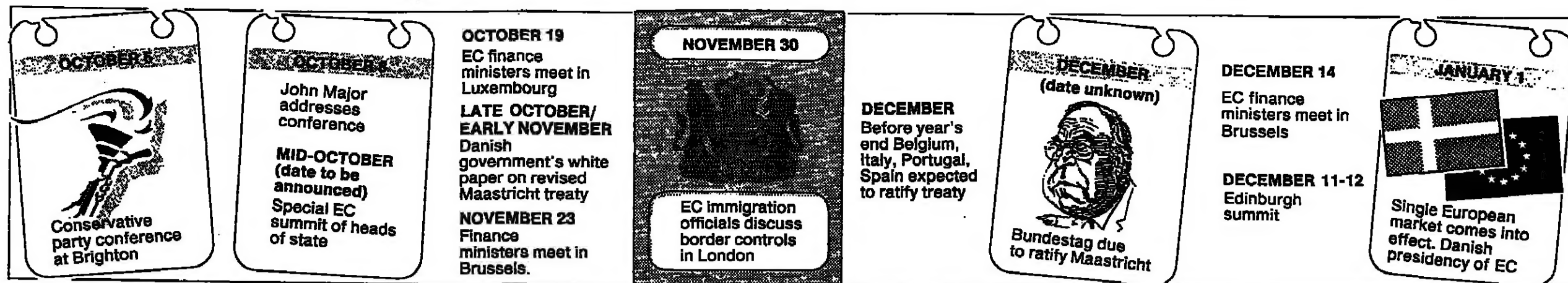
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France: reluctant assent reveals a fractured nation

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE succumbed to the post-referendum blues yesterday as relief among the main political classes gave way to the realisation that, after weeks of their pleading, the people had really just told them to jump in the lake.

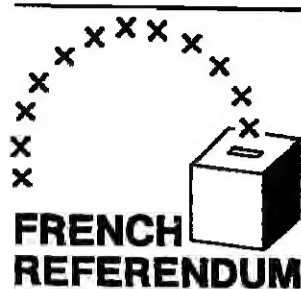
President Mitterrand may have survived his game of Russian roulette, as Valéry Giscard d'Estaing called it, but France's first direct vote on the European Community delivered a stinging home truth to the government and to the establishment which, since 1957, has "built Europe" in the people's name.

The vote settled at 51.05 per cent in favour of Maastricht

with 48.95 per cent against and 30 per cent abstention. It threw up a portrait of a France deeply divided between town and country and rich and poor, but in some agreement over its disillusion with its political leaders.

"The Europe which has been built for 40 years, based on enlightened 'despotism', is over," said *Le Monde*. "In its stead must come a Europe better controlled by its own citizens." The lesson was acknowledged by chastened ministers and opposition leaders, none of whom betrayed any jubilation over the reprieve for Maastricht which their furious campaigning had extracted from a reluctant populace. France approved the Maastricht treaty, the polls showed, out of a sense of duty and reluctance to destroy the European ideal.

Paul Quilès, the interior minister, took a pragmatic approach, saying the tiny margin did not matter. "When you win, you win. What history will record is that the French



FRENCH REFERENDUM

wanted to ratify the treaty," he said.

The *petit oui* of half a million out of 38 million eligible citizens saved France from repudiating an institution created and largely shaped by its own statesmen. *Le Figaro* said: "Never again can anyone say that Europe was imposed by Brussels, Bonn or elsewhere."

However, the vote hardly brought any serenity, given the gloom mood of a reluctant electorate. Rarely has M. Mitterrand seemed so out of touch than in his television appearance. Frail from his prostate operation, the 75-year-old president looked for all the world like one of the Kremlin gerontocrats of the 1970s when he insisted that the vote had "ensured the future of France" and animated Europe as a new "superpower".

Among the ironies of the referendum was the way that M. Mitterrand had been abandoned by the Socialist-voting electorate that put him and his party in power in 1981 and saved by the wealthier classes which had voted against him. This was testimony to a rift across the geographic and social landscape.

Maastricht was rejected with force by much of the countryside and by the north, the south and the centre in particular. It was approved strongly in the east and unex-

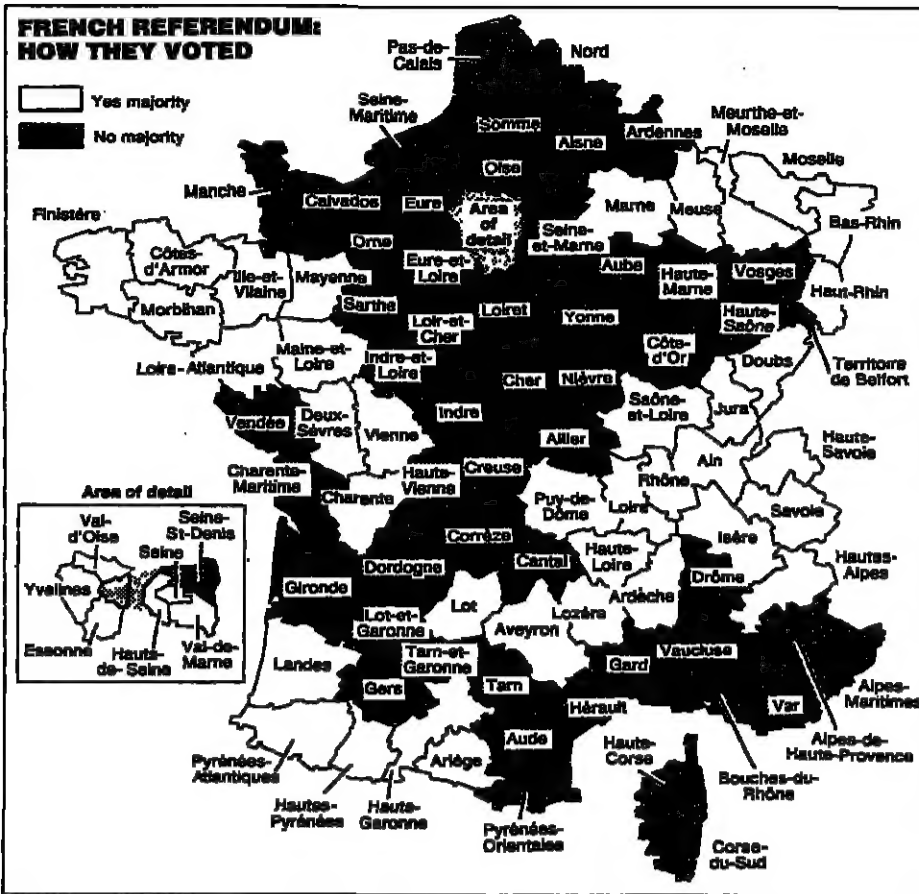
pectedly in Brittany. It was approved in most big towns and above all in Paris. In the fashionable Left Bank, the ritzy 16th arrondissement, the chic suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, the approval rate topped 70 per cent.

Rejection came most heavily from the "disinherited": the peasant farmers, workers and small shopkeepers, a force which increasingly supports the populist right and to a lesser extent the Communists and the "Bonapartists" left, grouped around Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

"We are confronted with two profoundly unreconcilable Frances," said *Le Quotidien de Paris*. "The side which said 'no' rejects traditional political recipes. It is in revolt." Despite all the talk of nothing being the same again after Maastricht, the parties seem intent on closing ranks for a traditional battle in the run-up to parliamentary elections, due next March. The opposition, split by quarrels over Maastricht, is expected to mount a parliamentary vote of censure against the government. M. Séguin and Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist dissidents, have pledged their loyalty to M. Chirac as the party's presidential candidate, though their hands are greatly strengthened because only 26 per cent of party supporters voted "yes".

The big question concerns M. Mitterrand's intentions. Despite the opposition disarray, few expect him to dissolve parliament, given that the referendum confirmed the collapse of Socialist support.

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FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

THE only real surprise in the barrage of percentage, slide and swing figures to hit France in the wake of the referendum came from Brittany. If the farmers in France's most westerly region had voted like their fellows in other agricultural areas, the Maastricht treaty would today be in shreds.

But the four departments in Brittany backed European union 60 per cent to 40. Loire-Atlantique, traditionally a part of Brittany but which falls outside the official borders, also backed the national trend. Fifty-seven per cent there voted "yes".

The scores in other departments reflected the levels for unemployment and agricultural activities. The more people on the dole are unsure of their jobs, the higher the "no" vote.

Nowhere was this more evident than in Paris. In the increasingly wealthy capital, 63 per cent threw their votes behind Maastricht.

But in the "red belt" of council highrise housing that rings Paris, there was a clear alienation from the political

VOTING TRENDS

slender majority to the "no" side. Charles registered 54 per cent in favour, the department rejected the treaty by the same proportion.

Château-Chinon, where President Mitterrand traditionally casts his vote, backed Maastricht 59 per cent. The Nièvre department that encircles it rejected it by 51 per cent. Thirteen regions voted "no": Picardie, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Haute-Normandie with more than 55 per cent. Nine areas voted "yes": Alsace and Brittany with more than 60 per cent.

Corsica, in a predictable and rebellious gesture towards Paris, voted "no" with 57 per cent.

Struggling lira forces Rome to slash public spending

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE lira remained under pressure yesterday in spite of the "yes" vote in France as the Italian government braced itself for a wave of unrest over its tough 1993 budget package.

"There is a lot of turbulence in the markets after the referendum," one Milan merchant banker said. "The outlook for the economy is still not that good. The feeling here is that

the lira has not been devalued enough." The lira was quoted at 840 to 843 to the German mark yesterday compared with 841 on Friday, reflecting disappointment at the narrow "yes" and concern over the structural weakness of the economy. There was a timid rally on the Milan bourse, where the share value index rose by 1.7 per cent.

Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, expressed deep relief over the "yes" vote, which gave

him considerable respite in the battle to chip away at the £70 billion budget deficit. Trade union leaders, however, have threatened a wave of four-hour strikes for today in protest at the 1993 budget package approved by the cabinet on Thursday.

Italians have been anxiously reading the small print of the package, published on Saturday, discovering some unpleasant surprises, especially over the extent of cuts in the national health service. Every-

one with an income of at least 40 million lire (£18,000) a year will have to pay for all but emergency health treatment.

Interest from government bonds, one of the most popular forms of investment for small savers, will be taken into account in assessment of eligibility for health care.

Piero Barucci, the treasury minister, said in Washington on Sunday that the lira would not return to the exchange-rate mechanism today nor was it likely to do so soon. Figures released yesterday showed inflation at its lowest level since November 1988.

Signor Amato believes that only the fear of being perpetually relegated to the second division of Europe will persuade Italians to make sacrifices to prevent the country sinking in public debt.

Pressure grows for EMU opt-out

AFTER the close "yes" victory in France and a week of currency turmoil in Europe, a growing all-party lobby in Germany is demanding that parliament be given the power to opt out of European monetary union. While Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, now wants urgently to press on with ratification, support is gathering for those who want to slow down the planned introduction of EMU by the end of the century.

Britain has been granted an opt-out clause in the Maastricht treaty, and some German politicians are pursuing a similar option. Björn Engholm, the leader of the Social Democratic opposition, said that the turbulence of the money markets showed that "the optimum of stability has not yet been reached" and therefore there should be no question of automatically moving ahead with EMU. He suggested that there should be an intermediary stage with the national parliaments having a final say on the time to move ahead.

That view is shared by

More and more Germans want the same escape clause on monetary union that Britain was given, Ian Murray writes

Count Otto Lambsdorff, the leader of the Free Democrats, the junior partner in the ruling coalition. He said the planned automatic transition to a common European monetary and currency union should be reviewed and any entry into the further stages of monetary union ought to be subject to a new decision by parliament.

Volker Rühe, the defence minister and former Christian Democratic Union general secretary, has also questioned the wisdom of going ahead with EMU as planned. Herr Rühe, who sees himself as a future chancellor and who has a good feel for grassroots opinion, is counselling caution, although not yet quite calling for a parliamentary right of veto.

The direction of Maa-

tricht is still right," he said. "The speed of it will depend on how fast we can solve the problems. You cannot artificially create a European currency."

An opinion poll for television yesterday showed that Christian Democrat voters were more opposed to the Maastricht treaty than supporters of the Social Democrats. The European union ideas were backed by 39 per cent of Christian Democrats compared with 52 per cent of Social Democrats.

Herr Kohl, welcoming the French referendum result as "a boost for Europe", promised to ratify the treaty and work for enlargement of the Community. But he also said: "We must learn from the experiences of the past week, talk about possible causes of

mistakes and remedy them." He said he had asked John Major to ensure that at next month's special EC summit there would be discussion about the future development of Europe. "It is important for all German citizens to know that in the [European] political union, the identity of the Germans and the French will not be surrendered."

The first reading of the bill on German ratification of the Maastricht treaty will go before the Bundestag on October 7. Two constitutional changes, giving foreigners the right to vote in local elections and making it possible for a European central bank to take precedence over the Bundesbank, are necessary before ratification is possible. Both require a two-thirds majority of Bundestag members. The Bundesrat (upper house) has made its necessary support to these changes conditional on another constitutional change, which will give the *Länder* (states) the right of consultation and veto over any legislation which transfers power to Brussels.

'Nons' make the Danes feel great

BY PETER MILLAR

THE sign for the Baltic ferry on the motorway outside Copenhagen is intended as an advertisement: "Gedser-Rostock." It reads: "the fast lane to Europe". The irony is not lost on the passing citizens, who are — either pain-

DENMARK

fully or proudly — aware that their vote started the division of the European expressway into a slow and a fast lane.

The narrow "yes" vote in France's referendum has been greeted in Denmark with something like relief. Pia Kjaersgaard, the right-winger whose Progress Party was a pillar of the opposition to the Maastricht treaty, said: "Naturally we are sorry that there is a little majority for 'yes', but there is also a big 'no'. I do not think the treaty can go ahead as it is.

Our hopes are for Great Britain now. Maybe Mr Major will have a referendum and the British people will give a very big 'no'."

After the recent turmoil, whatever now happens to Maastricht, the Danish view can no longer be portrayed as an aberration. In Copenhagen, exhilaration that the mouse that roared could frighten the ruling elite in Brussels and, more to the point, at home, had turned into anxiety that isolation from the mainstream might not be so splendid after all.

Denmark, like Britain, has long been uncertain whether it is part of the continent or an appendage. The upgrading of the ferry link to Rostock after German unification was intended to widen access to the "mainland" beyond the "corridor" of the Jutland peninsula. But the anti-immigrant violence in the eastern German port has



Kjaersgaard: looks to Britain to say 'no'

not made it an attractive gateway. It has also fuelled doubts about integration in a structure in which the old enemy is the dominant force.

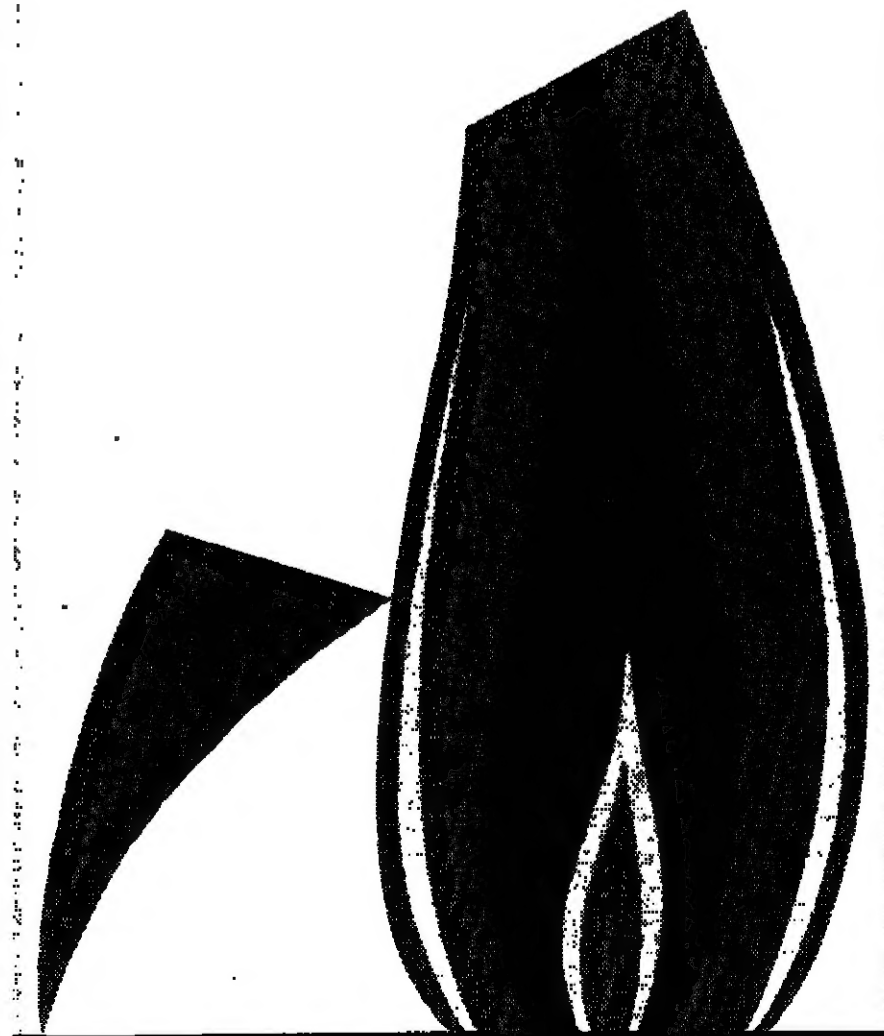
According to Mrs Kjaersgaard, an end to the dream of European union could facilitate the incorporation of the other Scandi-

navian countries in a Community that is in effect little more than a free-trade organisation. That is also the goal of the opposition Social Democrats, whose policies on Europe would amount to abrogation of the Maastricht treaty — the one point of agreement between the left and the far right in Danish politics.

John Major's declaration that the Danes' problems must be solved before a full ratification of the treaty is seen not so much as a challenge as being let off the hook. Toger Seidenhaden, a television executive and astute commentator, said: "The British have taken the pressure off. As long as Mr Major is making nice noises and saying we must sort our problems out first, then we have no risk of being isolated. What was just our problem has become as much a problem for the 11 others."

British Gas

Here's more good news about British Gas. We're cutting our continuing commitment to high quality service and lower fuel bills. From October 1st, we'll be cutting another 2% off our electricity. This means all our domestic and other tariff customers will receive the benefit of a reduced price of gas from the first meter reading on or after October 1st. This is our second price cut in just three months. And it's all thanks to the reduction made on July 1st. Now gas costs up to a total of 2.5% less than when we started at the new prices. This will be provided to all our first customers with their first gas bill after 1st October, and to all other customers at the time of their next meter reading. So that date, October 1st, is a day to remember. It's the day when all gas customers will receive a 2.5% discount from all gas showrooms and direct.



We're cutting the price of gas again.

Women found dead in forest had been shot and stabbed

By DAVID YOUNG

POLICE in Australia are expected to confirm today that the second body found in a forest south of Sydney is that of the British tourist Caroline Clarke, 22. The first body has been formally identified as that of her travelling companion Joanne Walters, also 22. Miss Walters was identified by her dental records. Miss Clarke's dental records have since been sent to Australia. Police said that Miss Walters had been repeatedly stabbed in the chest, the other woman had been shot in the head.

Danger on the road to adventure

By ALICE THOMSON

EVERY year 200,000 Britons don fluorescent backpacks and go abroad in search of adventure, according to STA, the student travel agency. Like Joanne Walters and Caroline Clarke, these backpackers want to see the world on a budget and have a good time. Backpacking is seen as one of the few safe highs left. But is it safe? Miss Walters and Miss Clarke are not the first British backpackers to be killed this year. Four Britons were murdered in Angola in January. Susan Kirby, from Doncaster, was shot and wounded in Sydney in May, and Jonathan Farmer was hacked to death as he jogged on Lamu island, Kenya.

Polly Davies, who runs Marco Polo, a travel advisory service for women in Bristol, believes that women can travel safely anywhere if they follow her "three Cs".

- Common sense: at home you would not take a short cut through a dark alley or go into a pub in your bikini - do not do it abroad. Carry valuables in a moneybelt and padlock your pack. Have the necessary inoculations and leave an itinerary at home.
- Compromise: when abroad, follow local customs. In Kenya, for instance, women do not go into bars alone unless they are prostitutes.
- Confidence: if you expect people to grab your money or try to rape you, you will appear nervous and attract more attention.

Clarke, 58, and his wife Jacqueline are now preparing to travel to Sydney from their home near Hexham, Northumberland. They were told of the discovery of the bodies as they drove home from a wedding in Surrey.

Mr and Mrs Walters, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, had been travelling in New South Wales and had appeared on Australian television appealing for information about the women.

Mr Clarke will travel to Sydney once identification formalities have been completed. He said: "We have given up hope of seeing our daughter alive again. The body of Joanne has been confirmed, so we are 99 per cent sure the other body is Caroline."

"We will be flying out to bring her home and lay her to rest finally and try to rebuild our own lives," Mr Clarke, northern director for the Bank of England, said. "We were told about the discovery early on Sunday morning when our community policeman called me on my carphone and told me to pull over."

"He said the police in Australia had found two bodies. It was such a harrowing experience, you can't imagine what we have gone through. Two minutes later we heard it on the car radio; at least we were spared that."

Professor John Hilton, director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, told a news conference in Sydney that scientific evidence indicated that both victims died around the time that they were last seen, in April. A cloth around the mouth and neck of Joanne Walters suggested that a gag had been used.

The women were last seen alive on April 16, when they left a Sydney hotel saying that they were going fruit-picking in southeastern Australia. They withdrew A\$200 from a bank account the next day, but the account has not been used since. Sydney police have discounted reports that the girls were the latest victims of a bushland serial killer.

The bodies were found 50 yards apart in the Belanglo State Forest near Bowral, New South Wales. One was under a rocky ledge, the other covered with brush. One was found by a man taking part in an orienteering event and the other by police searching the area the following day.

The women arrived in Australia separately last year and began travelling around the country together after meeting in Sydney.



Norma who? The prime minister's wife shows her security pass to police at the entrance to Downing Street yesterday after officers guarding against imposters slipping into Number 10 failed to recognise her

Solicitors prepare to fight as fees plan is unveiled

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE long-running dispute between the Lord Chancellor and solicitors over fixed legal aid fees hotted up yesterday as the government unveiled its proposals.

To what extent solicitors are prepared to fight the proposals is uncertain. Only a few local law societies indicated their willingness over the past few months to take industrial action by withdrawing from local duty solicitor schemes.

The proposal replaces the present system of payment by hourly rates. Instead, solicitors are paid a fixed fee depending on the kind of case. There are

two bands of fee: a lower one for the cheaper 70 per cent of cases and an upper level for the next 20 per cent. The top 10 per cent will be assessed by the Legal Aid Board as now.

Robert Winstanley, of the society's courts and legal services committee, said yesterday that the proposals, while emphasising cost control, did not make it easier for solicitors to represent their clients properly at a time when the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice was concerned about ensuring quality representation for defendants.

There are

Case type and band	Value of work	Standard fee applicable
London		
Summary trial, guilty plea		
0-70%	0-289	143
70-90%	290-523	383
90-100%	524+	assessed
Summary trial, not guilty plea		
0-70%	0-485	255
70-90%	486-827	831
90-100%	828+	assessed
Paper committals		
0-70%	0-432	240
70-90%	433-675	543
90-100%	676+	assessed
Non-London		
Summary trial, guilty plea		
0-70%	0-231	127
70-90%	232-391	295
90-100%	392+	assessed
Summary trial, not guilty plea		
0-70%	0-393	218
70-90%	394-657	487
90-100%	658+	assessed
Paper committals		
0-70%	0-344	200
70-90%	345-559	434
90-100%	560+	assessed

London skimps on its GPs

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S family doctor service is poorer than the rest of the country and is run on the cheap, in sharp contrast to the profitability of the capital's hospital service, according to new research.

Londoners have lower rates of immunisation and cervical screening and are prescribed 10 per cent fewer drugs than elsewhere. If prescribing rates outside the capital were brought down to the London level, the NHS would save £215 million a year.

The capital still has more older, single-handed, poorly supported GPs in inadequate premises than elsewhere, despite more than a decade of effort to remedy deficiencies highlighted in the 1979 Ach-

eson report. A fifth of GPs have patient lists of over 2,500, compared with a national average of a tenth, research by the Kings Fund Institute, an independent think-tank, has found.

The findings show the importance of building up the primary health care service in the capital before hospitals are closed. The Tomlinson enquiry into the future of London health care is expected to recommend the closure or change of use of four teaching hospitals but it is understood to have been asked to tone down its request for a big boost to primary care.

Spending on family health services in London is the same as the national average at

£112 a head, although costs are at least 20 per cent higher and spending on premises is 38 per cent higher. Only half of eligible London women have had a cervical screen in the past five years compared with almost three quarters elsewhere.

Inner London residents receive an average 7.4 prescriptions a head a year, compared with 10 in Birmingham and Liverpool and a national average of 8.1. However, Robert Maxwell, chief executive of the Kings Fund, said the low rate could be a good thing. "I wouldn't want to see extra money pumped into more prescribing but it might give us the opportunity to do other things."

Baby died after beating opened up old injury

By LIN JENKINS

A PREMATURE baby was murdered by his mother's boyfriend eight days after being allowed home from hospital despite police concern over a fractured skull, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Frederick John Feathers, 20, admitted killing four-month-old Harry Gurney, but denied murdering him on October 31 last year.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said Mr Feathers and the child's mother, Joanne Gurney, had reason to be careful with the infant since police had obtained a child protection order while he was in hospital. However, after a meeting between interested parties, including social

workers, Harry was allowed home to his mother and her partner.

The child was born in June 1991, seven weeks premature and weighing three pounds. He was admitted to hospital on October 20 with a fractured skull after his mother noticed a lump on his head. Mr Feathers at first claimed the child's two-year-old half-brother had hit him. However, said Mr Bevan, the older child had been in church with his mother and the injury was too severe to be caused by another baby.

Harry was discharged on October 23. A week later his mother ran in a panic to a neighbour asking her to call an ambulance. Another neighbour went into the

flat in Barking, Essex, and saw Harry lying on the draining board as Mr Feathers attempted to give mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Doctors at Newham General Hospital succeeded in resuscitating the baby but he did not survive. A post-mortem examination showed that his brain had bled and swollen, opening up the old fracture.

Mr Feathers told police a vacuum cleaner flex had caught the infant's crib and knocked him the floor. However the jury was told yesterday that he now conceded the injuries were sustained by shaking the baby and throwing him on to a bed.

The hearing continues today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Snooker star's father guilty of murder

Ronald O'Sullivan, father of the teenage snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan, was jailed for life yesterday after being convicted at the Old Bailey of stabbing a man to death during a party at a London nightclub. Friends of Bruce Bryan, the victim, cheered as the murder sentence was passed. Opposing factions in the public gallery traded abuse and police were called in to restore order.

O'Sullivan, a book trader of Chigwell, Essex, was also jailed for ten years concurrently for wounding Mr Bryan's brother Kelvin at the time of the murder at Stocks club, Chelsea. He denied both charges. The court was told that O'Sullivan and a fellow book trader had drunk a lot of champagne, were loud and were looking for trouble when the Bryan brothers joined a party of women who were at the club to celebrate a businesswoman's birthday.

Mr Justice Hobhouse told O'Sullivan: "This was a very unpleasant attack which included elements of racial harassment and quite gratuitous and disproportionate violence. Your conduct was inexcusable. Drink is no excuse for any offence."

Balloon crew saved

Two Dutch balloonists were rescued by helicopter after ditching in the sea at the end of the first transatlantic balloon race. British balloonists Don Cameron, of Bristol, and Rob Bayly, of London, landed safely on the Portuguese coast to come second, eight hours behind the winning Belgian team, who travelled 2,580 miles in 115 hours. The Dutch, who were trapped in heavy rain clouds and strong winds, were the second team to ditch during the five-balloon race. The Germans were forced down on Saturday after running short of fuel. The Americans, after drifting too far south, were reported 350 miles west of Gibraltar. The race started from Bangor, Maine, last Wednesday.

Indecency man fined

A man who admitted being naked on Wimbledon Common was fined £200 yesterday. Wimbledon magistrates were told that a woman had seen Colin Stagg, 29, of Roehampton, southwest London, wearing only sunglasses. Graeme Wood, for Stagg, said that the offence had no connection with the murder of Rachel Nickell, who was raped and stabbed to death in July while walking on the common with her two-year-old son. Scotland Yard said that it would take no further action against Stagg. Last week, more than 700 people responded to a police appeal for information after two videotape images of a suspect were shown on the BBC's *Crimewatch UK* programme.

Clowes appeal fails

The convicted fraudster Peter Clowes failed yesterday to overturn a High Court ruling that he is liable to meet a damages claim by the trade department and must make a £6 million interim payment. The Court of Appeal rejected his claim that the ruling was flawed. Clowes, 49, who is serving a ten-year jail term, was alleged to have cheated investors in the Barlow Clowes investment group of an estimated £113 million. He is to appeal against conviction. The trade department paid investors compensation of £150 million and seeks the return of £19.8 million relating to their losses with Barlow Clowes and Partners before its takeover by the off-shore Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers.

Plea on juvenile crime

Police chiefs are calling on the government to consider a new form of institution similar to the former approved schools to handle the rising number of child criminals. Establishment of a "halfway house" institution offering something in between community-based supervision and full prison will be advocated today at the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association, in Blackpool, by Chief Superintendent Edgar Day, the body's president, in a speech to delegates and Kenneth Clarke, home secretary. Yesterday, Mr Day, a Hampshire officer, said that an increase in young offenders, whose ages seemed to be falling, necessitated such institutions for those between 14 and 18.

MP hit by gun pellets

The Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn was recovering yesterday after being hit in the eye by pellets as his neighbours were clay-pigeon shooting. Sir Nicholas (right) was bruised and temporarily blinded in one eye. Lady Fairbairn said she and her husband were in the garden of their home, Fordell Castle, near Dunfermline, Fife. "Suddenly the garden was showered and peppered with pellets."



More BBC cuts feared

Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, sought yesterday to allay fears of further job cuts in an interview broadcast to staff on closed-circuit television. The BBC announced 1,250 job losses on Friday. Staff believe that the a scheme allowing programme making to be put out to tender will hit departments. The interview was conducted by John Humphrys. Roger Bolton, of the broadcasting union Bectu, said: "Sir Michael seemed to be inviting Humphrys to share an article of faith with him that his fears were unfounded and that it would be all right on the night."

Lightning killed umpire

A sportsman recovering from brain injuries was killed by lightning while umpiring a village cricket match, an inquest was told. Seven players were knocked down when lightning struck the ground at Youghal, near Bakenell, Derbyshire. As they got to their feet, Peter Hill, 26, remained motionless. Clive Rushton, the High Peak coroner, was told that the accident happened on May 31, five weeks after Mr Hill, an engineer, was concussed during a football match at the same ground. Verdict: accidental death.

'The complete cure to male impotence'

By W. Walsh.
Foreword by Dr. A. Williams.

If your sex drive isn't quite what it used to be - there's no need to worry. These days, most men can lead a healthy, virile sex life right into their seventies and eighties.

But until recently, men's reluctance to discuss the problem plus poor diagnostic procedures meant treatment would frequently fail. Invariably, the man was left to cope with low self-esteem and possibly, a faltering relationship.

The truth is most forms of impotence & premature ejaculation can now be treated successfully. Quickly and simply. The complete cure to male impotence tells you how.

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Written by W. Walsh in consultation with a team of expert doctors, this new book reveals that many men suffer from impotence at some stage in their life for various reasons.

But how men react to their new-found problem is, perhaps, more significant.

Naturally, you become concerned about your performance, or lack of it, and inevitably, this makes the problem worse. W. Walsh

explains that, very often, all you need is a simple 'kick-start' to give you back your confidence and your virility.

ARE THE CAUSES PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PHYSICAL?

Of course, they can be either, but whatever the reason, this book will show you how stress, guilt, anxiety, diabetes, tiredness, alcohol, depression, serious & minor illness, medically prescribed drugs & disease affect the male libido and how, more importantly, male virility can be restored.

A FREE PUBLICATION

'The complete cure to male impotence' has recently been published by The London Diagnostic Centre to promote a better understanding of how impotence can affect men in today's society and why there is no longer any need for them & their partners to live with the problem. To obtain your free copy in the utmost confidence, please complete the coupon below today.

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Lethal injection was betrayal of duty, judge tells doctor

By BILL FROST

DR NIGEL Cox, the hospital consultant found guilty of attempting to murder a terminally ill patient, was sentenced at Winchester Crown Court yesterday to one year's imprisonment, suspended for 12 months.

Mr Justice Ognall told Dr Cox that his conduct in administering a lethal injection to Lillian Boyes had been not only criminal but also a total betrayal of his unequivocal duty as a physician.

The General Medical Council confirmed that the case of Dr Cox would be referred to a preliminary proceedings committee. The committee would decide, possibly as early as next month, whether the consultant should be brought before a full public hearing.

Dr Cox, 47, said at a press conference that he was devastated by the jury's verdict and the suspended prison sentence "for what was a bona fide act that was solely in the interests of Mrs Boyes."

"It seems somewhat harsh to criminalise me for doing my best in what were quite exceptional circumstances. This is not a trial about the general issue of euthanasia, but about a very specific and most unusual set of circumstances."

Dr Cox said his aim was now to get back to as normal a life as possible as quickly as possible. "I cannot yet say what course my career will take but I will be continuing to see my patients if and until there is a hearing by the General Medical Council. Please let us not forget Mrs Boyes, a brave and patient lady, and her family who have



Patrick Boyes: sad at jury's verdict

Bond forged by pain and trust

Dr Cox's patients sometimes found his manner abrupt, but they came to respect his dedication, writes Bill Frost

AN extraordinary bond had grown between Dr Cox and Mrs Boyes over the years of their association.

He respected her courage and resilience, she appreciated his skill, care and directness. Doctor and patient became linked by affection and mutual regard.

Not all those who came into contact with Dr Cox were so well disposed towards the consultant. Some colleagues spoke of his brusque manner and unwillingness to suffer fools gladly.

The nurse who reported Dr Cox to the authorities after Mrs Boyes's death described him as unapproachable. Fellow rheumatologists, however, regard Dr Cox as a leader in the field, dedicated to easing pain and discovering new methods of treating a disease which caused terrible suffering and left little hope of remission.

Patients also spoke of Dr Cox's sharp manner, but praised his skill and caring attitude.

Peter Cheeseman, forced to retire early after the onset of acute rheumatoid arthritis, said: "He may give the impression of being sharp but it is just a cover. Inside Dr Cox is soft: the brusque approach is a measure of his shyness."

Mr Cheeseman, 55, said Dr Cox had helped him combat "unimaginable pain."

"The disease gives pain, pain and more pain. Dr Cox has made my life more tenable."

"Sometimes the agony is so great you can find nowhere to hide. But somehow he has helped me to manage."

"If I had been like Mrs Boyes, I would have been grateful for a release from the pain. Witnessing her agony would have hurt Dr Cox too."

Jean Winning, a retired registered nurse who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, also praised Dr Cox. "At first I found his manner abrupt. Then I realised he was a

been obliged to relive her end by proxy. I hope they will now be allowed to grieve in peace."

Mrs Boyes, who was 70, died at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, in August last year after Dr Cox injected her with potassium chloride when repeated doses of heroin had failed to ease her agony. During the trial, the jury was told that Mrs Boyes, who suffered from acute rheumatoid arthritis complicated by gastric ulcers, gangrene and body sores, was dead within minutes, possibly even seconds of the injection.

Dr Cox had promised to make her last hours as pain-free and dignified as possible. When all analgesics failed, the pressure on the consultant to end the suffering endured by Mrs Boyes became intense. The court was told during the seven-day trial.

Patrick Boyes, 42, the dead woman's son, said yesterday that the family was saddened by the verdict. "My brother John and I both feel that he is an excellent doctor and that he looked after our mother with care and compassion at all times. Mother was a very special and caring person. We are sure that she would have been horrified that her passing had resulted in this trial and the conviction of a doctor whom she respected and considered a friend."

David Scott, a fellow consultant rheumatologist, who supported Dr Cox throughout the trial, yesterday attacked the suspended prison term imposed by the judge. "In passing this obscene sentence, Mr Justice Ognall has probably advanced the cause of euthanasia inadvertently. We believe, despite certain press statements, euthanasia had nothing to do with this case," he said.

Sydney Kentridge, QC, for the defence, urged the judge to give his client an absolute discharge in view of the "exceptional circumstances" of the case. But before passing sentence the judge said that deliberate conduct by a doctor aimed at bringing about the death of a patient required "as a matter of principle to be marked by a term of imprisonment". However, the public interest would not be served by

jailing the consultant immediately so he had decided to suspend the sentence for 12 months.

Mr Justice Ognall described the trial as a testing and melancholy experience for all who had been involved. "And I do not exclude myself."

"From the dock — the most lonely vantage point in the court — there is no doubt that it was a terrible ordeal. The verdict was a personal and professional catastrophe," the judge told Dr Cox.

The jury had convicted the consultant on what Mr Justice Ognall described as "the most clear and compelling evidence". The consultant had allowed his distress over the suffering endured by Mrs Boyes in her last hours to overcome his professional duty. "Such conduct can never be legally excused. However, sometimes it can be explained," the judge said.

Doctor sentenced, page 1



Honeymoon tragedy: Carol, 19, and Raoul German, 31, who died in a helicopter crash in Hawaii last week, five days after their wedding. Mrs German, formerly Carol Shawcroft, from Southport, Merseyside, was married last week in Los Angeles. She and her Mexican husband were among seven people killed when a helicopter on a trip to Maui ran into poor visibility and crashed into the extinct volcano Haleakala

Specialist criticised at inquest

A GYNAECOLOGIST was accused yesterday of using "a wholly inappropriate" procedure on a patient who died after surgery at a private hospital (Alison Roberts writes).

An inquest at St Pancras coroner's court, London, into the death of Rose Silverman, 49, heard Albert Singer defend use of fibre optic tubes in a second operation after a hysterectomy he had performed at the Portland Hospital, central London, had caused complications.

Simon Taylor, for Mrs Silverman's widow, suggested in cross-examination that the blood-poisoning that killed her arose from her bowel being punctured by surgical instruments that should not have been used. Michael Silverman said that a lack of equipment had forced doctors to move his wife to University College Hospital.

Dr Singer, who also has a health service practice at the Whittington Hospital, north London, said that he and his colleagues were sure their instruments had not punctured the bowel. The patient had not wanted further major surgery. The hearing will continue later this week.

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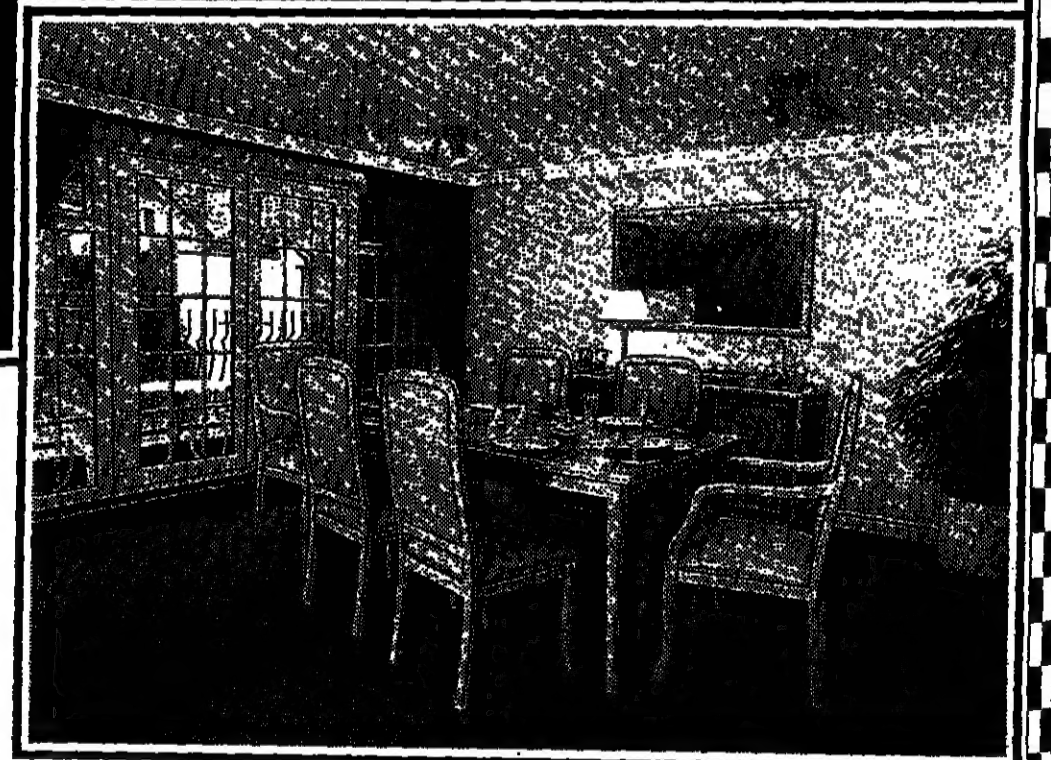
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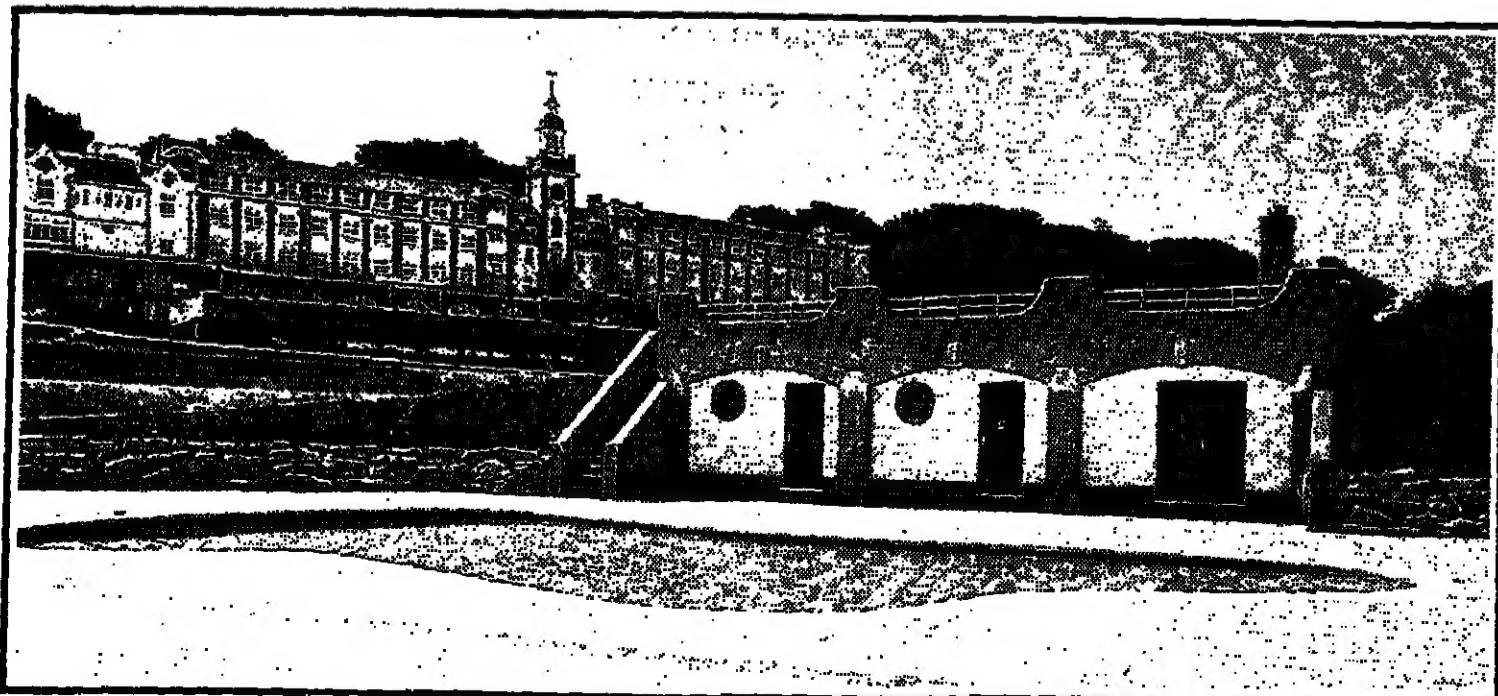
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Libel lawyer accuses Carman of presenting music-hall comedy



Hartley: attacked "smear tactics"

By TIM JONES

GEORGE Carman, QC, one of Britain's leading libel lawyers, was accused yesterday of being "cruel and cowardly" and of behaving like a stand-up comic in a music hall act.

His adversary, Richard Hartley, QC, used his closing speech in the libel action brought by Mona Bauwens, against *The People*, to tell the jury that Mr Carman had been "stage-manager, producer and lead-actor" in the action. David Mellor, the hereditary secretary, has been drawn into the case. It was, Mr Hartley said, "a bit rich" for Mr Carman to suggest that Mr Mellor had engaged in a public relations exercise, by getting his wife to attend the court, when he was a ringmaster. Mrs Bauwens, whose father is a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and chairman of its money-raising arm, is suing *The People* and its publishers for suggesting that a story printed in an issue two years ago meant that she was not a fit person to be associated with. During the trial,

now in its sixth day, the jury has heard that Mrs Bauwens paid for a holiday in Marbella for Mr Mellor and his family which began one day before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Throughout the trial, Mr Carman has said that the article was meant to question the political judgment of Mr Mellor in taking a holiday with Mrs Bauwens at a time when he should plainly have been seen to be dissociating himself from an organisation that supported President Saddam Hussein.

Mr Carman, he said, "sank low" when going through the companies she had been associated with. He had revealed that one of the directors had been exposed as a child molester. Then there were the pictures of Mrs Bauwens, fully clothed and on a bed and sitting on a rocking horse in a

leopard. None of these matters related to anything in this action... It is cowardly because he was prepared to wound but afraid to strike. Lots of innuendoes were left hanging in the air.

"Mr Carman is the past master of the wink, nudge, nudge. It is classic smear tactics in the hope that if you go on long enough something will stick." He added: "Mr Carman had a loaded gun, he knew it would go off. He intended it to go off, and it did."

Mr Hartley said that Mrs Mellor had turned up in court to support her friend. "If she had not been there you might have said she was conspicuous by her absence."

was editor of *The People* at the time and who is now editor of the *Daily Mirror*, had "kicked her when she was down" and never apologised. "They have dragged her through the dirt."

After telling the jurors to remember that they were in a court and not a theatre, Mr Hartley said: "I did not think Mr Carman would be doing a music-hall turn as a stand-up comic, telling you a rather sexist joke about Betty Braddock and painting a rather crude picture of David Mellor burying his head in the sand like an ostrich and exposing his private parts. It is all good knock-about stuff that had them rocking in the aisles..."

But I am not going to follow him down that path... Mr Justice Drake, summing up, told the jurors not to be overawed by arguments of press freedom. When they came to consider their verdict, it was possible Mrs Bauwens had been badly bruised as opposed to having lost a limb. The crucial link in the case was whether she should in any way be tainted because of her father's association with the PLO. The trial continues today.



Carman: a "ringmaster" in court

'He was prepared to wound but afraid to strike'

'They have dragged her through the dirt'

Cash shortage 'stops pupils taking home textbooks to study'

By RAY CLANCY

BRITISH schools are so short of funds that they cannot afford basic books and end up photocopying extracts, an independent report published yesterday says.

The report, from the Book Trust, said there was a shortage of professional school librarians in England and Wales and that a "book-starved" generation was emerging because few pupils read complete books.

Michael Marland, head of North Westminster Community School and chairman of the report working party, said: "Fewer children are taking fewer books home. That deprives them of the ability to go

over and understand what they have been studying in the classroom." At a press conference in London, he said he had been unable to provide a £13.99 science book for the school library because of lack of funds, and he had been appalled because he could not give each pupil studying *Hamlet* a copy of the play to take home.

The report suggested that photocopying had reached unprecedented levels and had become "an inferior and expensive substitute for having and using the book itself". Mr Marland said a 13-year-old had stopped him and asked why pupils were given bits of

books typed on coloured paper instead of the real thing.

The report was critical of the amount spent on books. It said primary schools spent £9 a child in England, £7.45 in Scotland and £7.60 in Wales when the minimum should be £15.27 and, ideally, £18.39. Secondary schools spent £13.50 a child in England and £13.56 in Scotland and Wales; the report recommended £24.97 and, ideally, £28.97.

The report welcomed advances in the national curriculum and local management that gave teachers the ability to decide which books to buy, but said the workload meant they frequently did not have the time to decide which books were best.

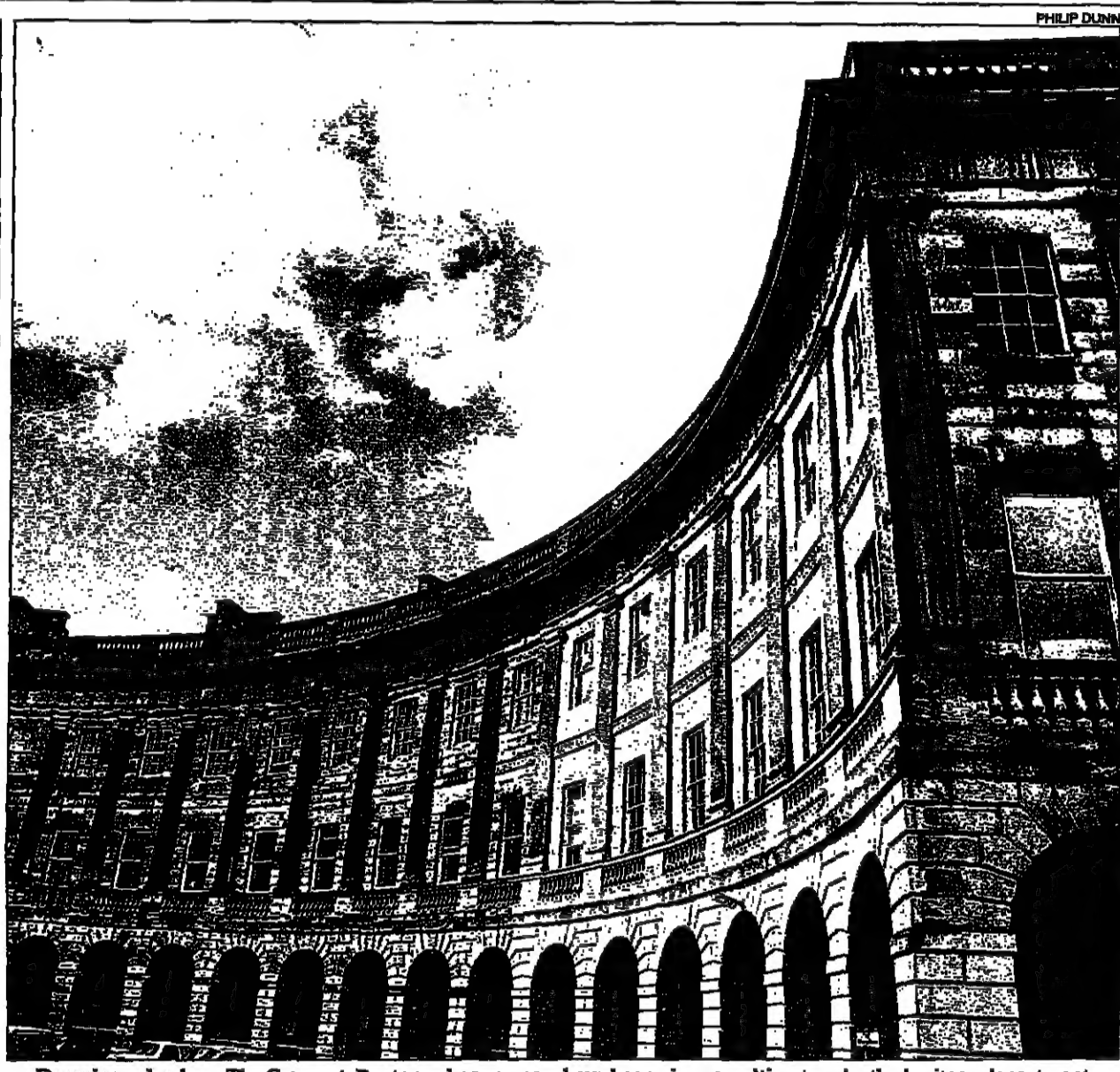
The education department said: "Spending on books and equipment rose by 38 per cent in real terms from 1980 to 1990. We have provided an extra £15 million to buy books for the new curriculum."

Mr Marland said the education department lumped books and equipment under one budget. Schools had to spend large amounts on computers and information technology and had less for books. □ The Book Trust may well be dismayed to learn that five books have been banned from a Scottish school after they were deemed obscene (Kerry Gill writes).

The books removed from an approved reading list for pupils taking Higher English include *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *The Chancer* and *A Greyhound for Breakfast* by James Kelman. *Parfums*, a collection of short stories by Patrick Suskind, and *Cider House Rules* by John Irving.

All were removed from the library of Johnstone High School, near Paisley, after complaints were made by Robert Bonnar, a member of the school board. Mr Bonnar, a former teacher, denied that the ban was a form of censorship and said the books were simply not suitable.

Books in Schools (Book Trust, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ; £4.95)



Decaying splendour: The Crescent, Buxton, whose owners have been given an ultimatum by the heritage department

Minister comes to rescue of crescent

ROBERT Key, the national heritage minister, has intervened to save a Georgian street in Buxton, Derbyshire, from continuing decay. The owners, Capitalise, have been given ten days to put forward a satisfactory programme and timetable for repairs to The Crescent, a grade one listed structure.

Mr Key said yesterday: "If firm proposals are not received by English Heritage by the end of September, we will consider serving a full repairs notice, followed up if necessary by a compulsory purchase order. The repairs notice would not simply specify emergency protection measures but full permanent repairs to roof, stonework and interiors, at a probable cost of £1 million."

"It is a very important

The national heritage department has vowed to save a Georgian relic from further damage, Marcus Binney writes

building in a gem of a town. This is a firm statement of intent from the new Department of National Heritage and a precedent for future action," Mr Key said.

The Crescent was built for the 5th Duke of Devonshire by the architect John Carr of York as lodgings for visitors for the new spa he was developing. It began to deteriorate badly after St Ann's Hotel, which occupied the major part of the buildings, was closed in 1989 as a result of hygiene notices served by High Peak Borough Council. Subsequently, the county

council closed the public library that occupied the former assembly rooms at the end of The Crescent, after concern about the floor loadings.

Gales in 1990 ripped gaping holes in the hotel roof and the district council, realising that winter rain could spell disaster for the interior, sent in builders to take off the slates and secure protective sheeting directly on to the rafters.

Crown Hotels accepted an offer from a specialist in rescuing country houses, but then rejected that in favour of another offer from a newly formed company, the Derby-

shire Trust, which failed to raise the necessary funds. This summer the whole crescent has been fenced off after concern about falling masonry, leaving Buxton with an eyesore.

A council officer said: "As soon as the windows were boarded up to prevent vandalism, enormous dry rot fruiting bodies developed, the biggest I have ever seen."

The Bank of Egypt, the mortgagees, sold St Ann's last month to a newly formed company, Capitalise, which had no definite plans apart from a general intention to explore reopening the hotel. Crown Hotels paid an estimated £750,000 for St Ann's Hotel in 1986, but in its present state the district value might be as little as a nil value.

Redwood acclaims new tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Redwood, the local government minister, launched a counter attack on critics of the council tax, accusing them of attempting to hide the facts from the public.

Addressing council taxation officers yesterday at their annual gathering in Eastbourne, East Sussex, Mr Redwood condemned "pointless and premature" speculation about the level of charges. Council tax will replace the community charge next April, and some commentators have suggested that the system will be bogged down by valuation appeals and that bills will average more than £600.

Ministers initially issued figures showing an average household bill of £400 based on 1991 council spending levels, but Mr Redwood has refused to predict the likely levy. "Predictably, there has been much pointless and premature speculation on next year's council tax levels. But we must not let this prevent us from presenting the facts to the public," he said.

Bureaucracy would be reduced, with one bill per property instead of personal poll tax bills for every adult. Seven million people living alone would be entitled to an automatic 25 per cent discount while grouping properties into tax bands according to market value would take account of ability to pay. Students, student nurses, people on income support and youth training students would all be exempt.

Jack Straw, Labour's chief environment spokesman, said most people who knew anything about the new tax would not believe the minister's assertions. "John Redwood's claims about the simplicity and fairness of the council tax are about as convincing as John Major's promises not to devalue the pound," he said.

Hotel rises to club's tall order

By KERRY GILL

APART from the possibility of a trial with the Harlem Globetrotters there is not much going for very tall people. They hang their heads on door frames, struggle to buy clothes that fit, find their feet sticking out from under bed covers and are forced to put up with boring remarks such as "is it cold up there?"

But, as every minority group eventually discovers, there is strength in numbers. Thus the Tall Persons Club of Great Britain was founded and next month its members will celebrate its first anniversary at a hotel in Perth.

Just finding a suitable hotel was difficult enough. Okay, the chandeliers at the Ritz may be high enough to avoid damaged skulls, but that could be rather pricey.

Kate Edwards, six feet, one of the club's co-ordinators, said: "We questioned several hotels about the height of showerheads, the inside dimensions of lifts, the headroom in doors and, most importantly, the length of beds. We also had to know whether there were any low-hanging chandeliers, which are not good news for us."

The club settled on the Salutation Hotel. A venue in Scotland was considered a must since club members wanted to hold a ceilidh and enjoy some Highland reels. The club was formed to provide tall people with moral support and advice and to arrange social functions. To qualify for membership, men must be at least 6ft 3in and women 5ft 10in.

Ms Edwards, of Aberdeen, said: "Far from feeling lanky and superior, tall people are often self-conscious and depressed about their great height. They get stared at a lot. As one of our members says, it's like being famous without the money." And very cold too.

Victorious Fischer surges ahead

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Fischer achieved an outstanding victory in game 11 of his match against Boris Spassky, giving him a commanding lead of five wins to two.

The game, in which Fischer played white, will undoubtedly go down as one of his greatest attacking performances. Grandmasters watching the match at the island resort of Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, showered him with praise. Many said that it was by far the best game, with perfect play by Fischer.

One grandmaster, Peter Popovic, dismissed speculation that the American might have lost his strength after 20 years away from the board, saying: "Fischer is really Fischer again now."

Spassky had rallied during game 10, holding Fischer to a draw after three consecutive defeats. In game 11, Fischer regained his brilliant form to win in 41 moves after 5 hours and 41 minutes of play.

The opening was a Sicilian

defence, a line dating back to the fifteenth century. But Fischer's seventh move introduced a novel gambit of a pawn. Spassky defended incautiously on the 13th move, developing a bishop when he should have moved his knight, but the punishment that Fischer meted out for the small error was hard to foresee. Fischer's 15th move was a bombshell, launching a knight into the heart of the black position.

In the final stages, with the advantage of rook against bishop, Fischer's technique

was merciless. On the 39th move, he sacrificed his rook for Spassky's last dangerous pawn. When Spassky resigned, although he was briefly a bishop ahead, Fischer's pawns would soon have been triumphant.

The next game is scheduled for Saturday in Belgrade, where the rest of the games will be played. The winner will be the first player to accumulate ten victories.

White Black
1 e4 e5 22 exd5+ Bx6
2 Nf3 Nc6 23 f4 Rb6
3 Bb5 g6 24 f5 Rxb2
4 Bxc6 Bxc6 25 e6 Bc6
5 0-0 Bg7 26 Re1 Rxb1
6 Re1 c5 27 Rxc1 Kd6
7 B4 cxb4 28 Rd1+ Ke5
8 a3 c5 29 e7 a5
9 axb4 cxb4 30 Re1 Bc7
10 g4 Qd4 31 Re5+ Kd4
11 Bb2 Qc5 32 Re5+ b3
12 Nxd4 Qd7 33 Re7 Bb8
13 Nd2 Bc7 34 Rb7 Kc3
14 Nd4 Nf6 35 Kf2 b2
15 Nf5 Bxb2 36 Kc3 Bf7
16 Nxd6+ 37 g4 Kc2
17 Nxb6 Qd1 38 Kd4 b1=Q
18 Rxc7 Qd1 39 Rxb1 Kd1
20 Nxb6 Rxb6 40 Kc3 Kc2
21 Nf5+ g5 Black resigns

The final position

Desperately seeking industrial sponsors

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS whose government grant applications are rejected will be given a chance to raise the money from industry through a new series of "lonely hearts" bulletins.

The bulletins will list those projects given the highest rating by the Science and Engineering Research Council but denied funding because there is not enough money. In some fields, 80 per cent of such projects cannot be supported.

The bulletins are to be published twice a year by Oakland Consultancy, of Cambridge, with financial help from Norway's largest industrial company, Norsk Hydro. At their launch yesterday, Sir Mark Richmond, chairman of the research council, said that the rejected projects were all high-class proposals.

The projects listed in the first bulletin, on chemistry and

process engineering, lack the inimitable style of entries in other match-making publications. None begins: "Male scientist, 28, animal-lover, outgoing and good sense of humour, fond of classical music, seeks industrial sponsor for mutual enjoyment, possible long-term relationship."

But among the almost 150 projects there are some irresistible propositions. A chemist at the University of Edinburgh wants to develop unusual heteroboranes, while a Leeds researcher seeks support to study the surface-induced organisation of discotic amphiphiles.

Michael Zeitlyn, of Oakland Consultancy, hopes that the bulletins will quicken pulses in corporate research departments. "To begin with we are giving them away but in due course will start charging a subscription of £99 for biannual bulletins," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother, 17 smothered her baby

A teenage mother ignored her five-month-old daughter's cries as she smothered her, secretly watched by police and hospital staff, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

A surveillance operation was set up when the baby was transferred to a London hospital after doctors in Middlesbrough, Cleveland, could find nothing medically wrong with the child and suspected her mother of causing the breathing problems.

Psychiatrists told the court that the woman, who admitted cruelty, had a mental problem. Judge Marcus Arwell-Davies, QC, placed her on probation for two years, saying that although the offences were "horrible" it was to her credit that she had owned up. The child is in care.

Parrot charge

A company director accused of strangling his neighbour's £1,000 parrot was remanded on bail at Oxford Crown Court. Mark Leach, 43, of Oxford, and his wife Dolores, 44, also given bail, were charged with assaulting Paddy Williams, a polytechnic lecturer, and damaging his fence and aviary.

Girl found

Caroline Courtland-Smith, 13, of St Leonards, East Sussex, who vanished from an amusement arcade at Hastings after an argument with her mother on Saturday night, was reunited with her parents yesterday after police found her wandering the streets in central London.

PC remanded

PC William Camore, 47, of Canvey Island, Essex, was remanded on bail by Chelmsford magistrates charged with indecently assaulting three girls under 16 at Braintree between May 6, 1982 and August 15, 1985.

New Aids cases

There were 153 new Aids cases reported in Britain during August, bringing the total since reporting began in 1982 to 6,431, of which 3,991 are known to have died, the Public Health Laboratory Service said.

Talk is cheap

A scheme aimed at encouraging people to save legal costs by using mediation to settle disputes out of court will be launched this week by the CBI-backed Centre for Dispute Resolution.

Abseiler killed

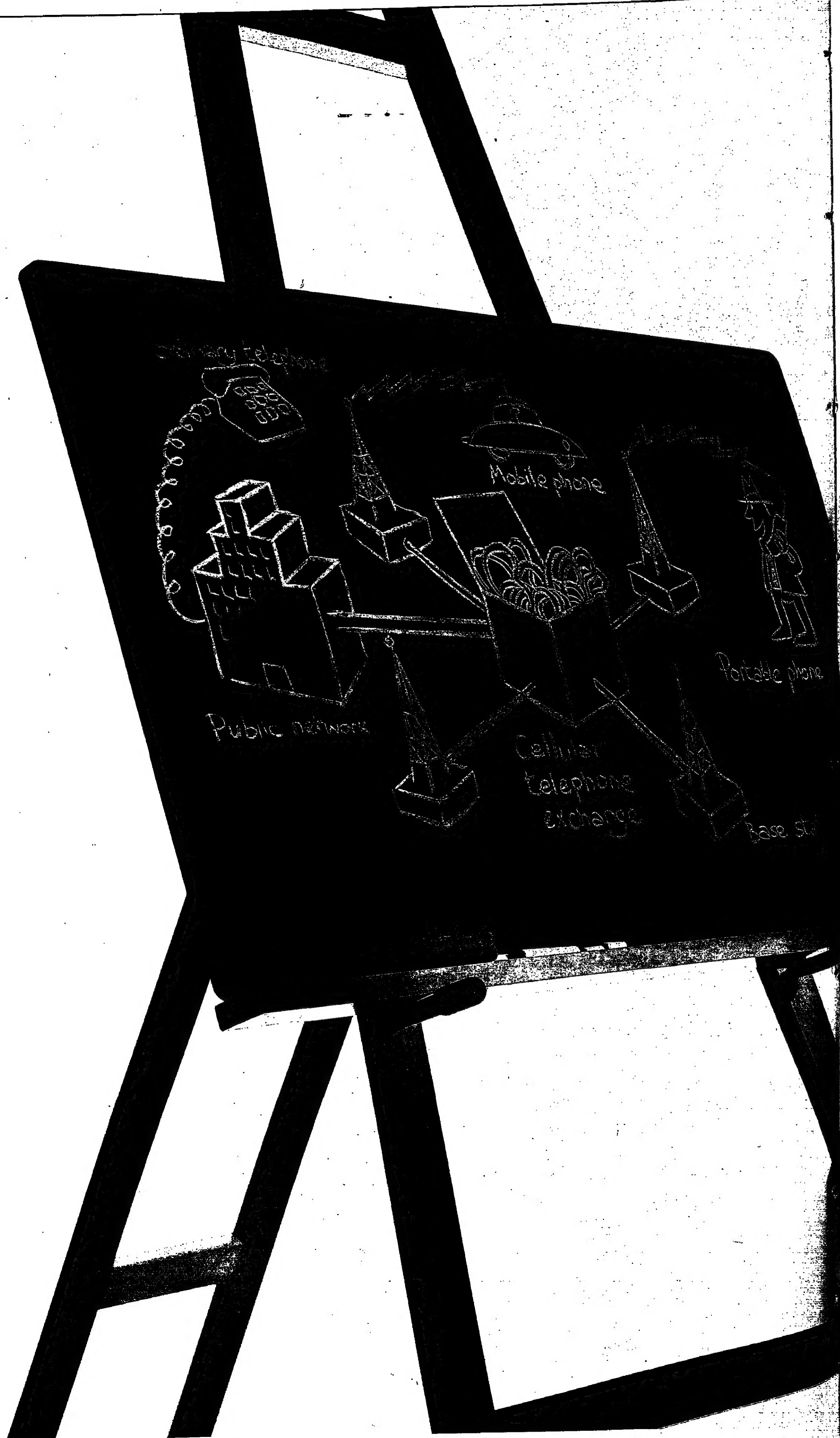
A 45-year-old man fell 40ft to his death when his safety harness slipped as he abseiled down a crag near Leek, Staffordshire, on Sunday, police said yesterday.

Channel swim

Haydn Welch, 34, a jeweller, of Taunton, Somerset, dodged a tanker and floating logs to swim 26 miles across the English Channel from Dover to France in 13 hours 42 seconds at the weekend.

CORRECTION

Two women bank staff who were abducted and robbed (report, September 19) were employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland, not the Bank of Scotland.



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Serb women force retreat of relief convoy to Muslims

By TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A UNITED Nations aid convoy in Bosnia has been prevented from reaching its destination by protesting Serb women and children. The 18-lorry convoy made two attempts to reach the area of Srebrenica at the weekend but 150 Serb protesters blocked the road shouting: "No food for the Muslim killers of our sons and husbands."

The convoy, escorted by French troops, was turned back as reports of fighting and alleged massacres indicated that Serb forces are on the defensive in several parts of Bosnia.

In another incident, Edip Sadioglu, a Briton, was among seven foreign Muslims who died when their aid convoy was hit by a shell in the Croat-controlled town of Mostar. It is believed that the seven were killed last Thursday.

The peace conference in Geneva on the Yugoslav civil war began sealing down yesterday and exasperated mediators told Bosnia's warring factions to stop fighting if they want to make progress in the talks. Leaders of the three

main factions — Radovan Karadzic, for the Serbs, Haris Silajdzic, for the Muslims, and Mate Boban, for the minority Croats — were due to depart, leaving lower-ranking negotiators to continue the talks.

Late in the day, the Muslim-led Bosnian government proposed a new constitutional framework for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which would preserve it as a single state but decentralise some powers to constituent regions. Mr Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, presented the proposal calling for the republic to be a "democratic, secular and decentralised state" with equal rights for all its peoples.

Earlier, the two co-chairmen of the conference, Cyrus Vance of the UN and Lord Owen of the European Community, told the three factions that unless restraint was shown, "we are not going to have the climate... to make substantive progress on items like constitutional issues". Mr Vance and Lord Owen fly to Greece today for talks with Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister.

Elsewhere in the former

Yugoslavia, five French UN peacekeeping soldiers in Croatia were slightly injured when an anti-personnel mine exploded. The incident happened while the soldiers were on a mine-clearing mission near the town of Zadar.

The disrupted aid convoy to Srebrenica, 50 miles north-east of Sarajevo, was organised after persistent reports that local Serbs had failed to crush resistance by some 40,000 people in the Muslim enclave. Larry Hollingworth, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who accompanied the convoy, said that it had been threatened and harassed.

Mr Hollingworth said: "There was a car overturned in the street and a crowd of women and children blocked our route. Many said they had lost husbands and sons in the fighting and they would not let us through." He added that the demonstration had been organised. "Either the Serbs gave their word [about free passage] and broke it... or the civil authorities in the area are not obeying their central authority."

The incident is an indication of the problems the new 6,000-strong UN force for Bosnia will face once it is in place and has begun escorting humanitarian aid.

UN sources said it was not known exactly what was happening in Srebrenica, but it was believed to be under siege. Disclosure that there is a sizeable pocket of resistance to Serb rule in eastern Bosnia confirms that the Serb military position in the area is either far less secure than previously believed, or is actually deteriorating.

Bosnian forces from Gorazde, which was a besieged town but is now an apparently expanding enclave, are pushing towards nearby Rogatica. The Belgrade news agency, Tanjug, reported yesterday that a further 1,500 Serbs were now in flight from the area.

Fighting was also reported around Doboj, Gradacac, and Bosanski Brod along Bosnia's strategic northern corridor. The Serbs must hold this in order to maintain a territorial link between northern Bosnia, Serb-held territories in Croatia, and Serbia itself.



Silajdzic: proposed new Bosnian constitution

America offers to train army of UN peacekeepers

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Bush announced moves yesterday to bolster United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian operations by providing special training to American troops and forces from other countries.

In what could be his last address to the world body, where he once served as US ambassador, Mr Bush said the US military would start teaching peacekeeping to all new recruits and would make US bases available to other countries for joint peacekeeping training and exercises.

He specifically mentioned the US army base at Fort Dix, New Jersey, which lies within easy reach of UN headquarters in New York. "From Cyprus to Lebanon, to Cambodia and Croatia, the blue beret has become a symbol of hope," he told the 179-nation General Assembly. "As much as the United Nations has done, it can do much more."

Mr Bush's initiative was intended as a gesture of support for the reforms proposed by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, in his recent "Agenda for Peace", a report commissioned by the special session of the security council in January. But Mr Bush did not commit the United States to earmarking troops to serve in a UN army with the task of peace-enforcement, rather than peacekeeping, as Mr Boutros Ghali asked. He also made no specific promise of material support to the United Nations.

Instead, Mr Bush called for another special session of the security council to discuss Mr Boutros Ghali's far-reaching proposals, many of which he seemed to endorse in principle. Calling on UN members to take "bold steps", he said nations should develop and train military units for possible peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief.

"These forces should be available at short notice at the request of the security council," he said, adding that these standby troops should train together and co-ordinate planning, command and control.

Emphasising the need for "adequate logistical support"

for UN missions, Mr Bush endorsed the idea of stockpiling aid and equipment to prevent harmful delays in the start-up of humanitarian operations. He also promised that the United States, which owes \$209 billion (£120 million) in unpaid UN peacekeeping bills, would explore new ways to ensure that Washington meets its obligations, but he made no explicit reference to Mr Boutros Ghali's suggestion that peacekeeping payments come from national defence budgets. "The United States is ready to do its part to strengthen international peacekeeping," he said.

Mr Bush also addressed the problem of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the need to foster global economic prosperity. He proposed that the United Nations Security Council, which he said had become the key forum for preventing weapons proliferation, give new assurances to non-nuclear countries which might be threatened by a nuclear power.

And in his only mention of Iraq, which has turned into an election liability rather than an asset, he praised the work of the UN weapons inspectors involved in dismantling Baghdad's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capability and ballistic missiles. Mr Bush also emphasised the economic interdependence of the world, called for an early conclusion to the Gatt trade talks, and criticised "insular" economic policies.

He threw his weight behind European economic integration, but said how it was achieved was up to the Europeans.

● New York: Milan Panic, the prime minister of rump Yugoslavia, caught in a crossfire between Serb nationalists and the world community, arrived in New York yesterday to plead his country's case at the United Nations. The security council has recommended that it be barred from the UN General Assembly.

"I want the world body to understand Yugoslavia's position on the issue we are accused of," he said. (Reuters)



Point taken: President Yeltsin joking with Nursultan Nazarbayev, his Kazakhstan counterpart, during a tennis match in Moscow yesterday. The leaders discussed the development of special relations between their two countries before a visit to Germany by Mr Nazarbayev

Missiles pound Karabakh city

Azerbaijan's incessant bombing of Nagorno-Karabakh is driving Armenian civilians from the enclave, Bruce Clark writes from Yerevan

ARMENIANS feel a trace of irritation when the world is convulsed with horror over attacks on bread queues in Sarajevo.

Gohar, a 17-year-old girl who speaks in whispers, was among several dozen people returning from an unsuccessful wait outside a bakery in Stepanakert when a missile fell in front of them. Most of the 26 people who were killed were refugees, like Gohar.

She and her mother had fled in mid-June from their northern Karabakh village after it was laid waste by Azerbaijani tanks. Along with thousands of others, they took "refuge" in the supposed safety of Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan whose ethnic Armenian majority is battling to secede.

Shrapnel pierced one of Gohar's lungs, and against the odds she recovered from a six-hour operation. The buildings adjacent to the hospital then came under aerial bombardment. But Gohar was too weak to be moved to a basement. The psychological strain worsened her condition and she had to be flown, unconscious, to Yerevan, the Armenian capital, where she is now slowly improving.

But after barely ten weeks of calm, secured by Armenia's military successes in mid-May, the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh are again being subjected to missile attacks. Last month, the town of Stepanakert, home to about 30,000 people, faced renewed terror of a level unseen in the conflicts unleashed by the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Fighter aircraft, newly acquired by Azerbaijan, rained down high explosives capable of flattening a five-storey building and anti-personnel cluster bombs designed to kill and maim. This month, after at least three aircraft were shot down, the aerial bombing has given way to incessant pounding from long-range field guns, which claim several lives and cause dozens of injuries every night.

In the past 48 hours, there has been fierce fighting over the Lachin corridor, a vital strip of Azerbaijani territory seized by Armenia in May to link Karabakh and Armenia.



If the corridor is cut, Nagorno-Karabakh will face another cold and hungry winter.

Yesterday, as Armenia celebrated its first year of independence, the mood in Yerevan was one of sullen preoccupation with war and economics.

Living standards have fallen and the conflict with Azerbaijan and the internal strife in neighbouring Georgia have combined to deprive the state of vital supplies of gas and grain. Fears are growing over how the capital will survive the harsh winter.

On Sunday, Azerbaijani planes renewed the bombard-

ment of Stepanakert, killing seven people. Long-range artillery continued to pound the city. Ethnic Armenian fighters claimed that in the past few days they had destroyed 20 Azerbaijani tanks and killed hundreds of teenage Azerbaijani conscripts. But they said that Azerbaijan still had several hundred tanks and hundreds of thousands of troops.

The conflict between the two countries is now entering the "ethnic cleansing" phase as Azerbaijan, which regards the enclave as its inalienable territory, tries to punish the Armenians fighting for its secession. In Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, pressure is growing to expel all remaining Armenians — completing the population exchange that began in 1988 when about 200,000 members of each community moved or fled to their separate homelands.

Officially, authorities in Baku claim that the bombing of Karabakh is primarily directed at military targets. "The settlement of civilians near such facilities is of a deliberate nature," an official Azerbaijani communiqué states.

But both sides are aware that the objective of the bombardment is to drive Armenian civilians out of the war zone. At the height of the Azerbaijani air raids on Stepanakert, several busloads of women and children departed the enclave, news of which was reported triumphantly by the Baku media, and with dismay in Yerevan.

The warring sides realise that the Armenian cause in Karabakh could be lost unless some civilian families continue to live there. Social and community life cannot continue unless women are there to cook, gather water, help with the harvest and provide succour. The absence of non-combatants, too, could encourage Azerbaijan to ignore any self-restraint and pound Stepanakert to rubble. Karabakh's civilians, however ineffective a force they may be, provide a sort of human shield in this dirty war.

Nationalist advance in Estonia

Tallinn: Elections at the weekend in Estonia have produced an inconclusive result which is likely to lead to a weak and divided government (Anatoli Lieven writes). The strong showing of an extreme nationalist party will be seen as threatening by the 39 per cent Russian-speaking minority, most of whom are disenfranchised as immigrants.

According to provisional results, the largest single group in parliament will be the centre-right Fatherland alliance with 28 of the 100 seats. No coalition can be formed without it.

Submarine fear
Stockholm: Swedish coastguards fired depth charges off Landsort, on the east coast, for the second time in a week. Microphones picked up signals "which could indicate submarine activity". (Reuters)

Vodka cocktail

Prague: At least 25 per cent of Russian Stolichnaya vodka sold in Czechoslovakia is contaminated with dibutylphthalate, a chemical used as an insect repellent, and authorities have ordered the withdrawal of stocks. (Reuters)

Retrial sought

Stockholm: Sweden is seeking a retrial for three Swedish engineers sentenced to seven years in jail for illegally entering Iraq. Sweden insists the three, working for a telephone firm in Kuwait, wandered into Iraq by mistake. (Reuters)

Change of gear

Moscow: Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, is the latest victim of a wave of car thefts here. His limousine, part of his retirement package, was stolen outside the Gorbachev Foundation.

Jews to seek coalition against neo-Nazis

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BERLIN

AS THE new head of Germany's Jewish community pledged to build a broad coalition against the spreading neo-Nazi violence, international Jewish leaders meeting in Berlin yesterday condemned European politicians' response to the rapid increase in right-wing extremism.

Racist attitudes are increasingly widespread, but the political response is inadequate, said Antony Lerman, director of the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs. "The world has been turned upside down

and the search is on for scapegoats... politicians may quote their public statements of condemnation [of racism] in defence, but the will of appeasement is in the air, the readiness to accommodate racist views is present in political life across the continent."

The Jewish communal leaders and academics, meeting in Berlin for a three-day conference on anti-Semitism in Europe, gathered as Ignatz Bubis, the newly elected chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said that he

would campaign hard against the neo-Nazis. He declared: "I will make contact with churches, labour unions and political parties to discuss right-wing violence against asylum-seekers and come up with energetic action."

Herr Bubis, 65, spoke after being elected to succeed Heinz Galinski, who died in July.

Mr Lerman said that developments in post-communist countries were especially worrying, with racist violence reaching ed unprecedent levels in postwar Germany. But there was a need to be

wary of glib comparisons between what was happening now and Weimar Germany, between the current neo-fascists and the Nazi party.

But whatever the differences, there is no remorse among the current right-wing extremists for the Holocaust. In Berlin, a bomb attack damaged the city's Holocaust memorial and gravesites in Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated. Police in the Baltic city of Wismar said yesterday they had arrested four right-wing extremists during attacks on a refugee shelter.

Russian women ignore their babushkas for a slim chance

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

TIME was when Soviet womanhood stood out defiantly against the Western dictatorship equating desirability with slenderness. Grannies would stroke the cheeks of willowy young girls, inform them that they were as thin as death, and then ply them with sour cream, potatoes and sugary goodies until plump vitality was achieved.

The advent of Western advertisements and clothing has rapidly changed that. The image of beauty is one of the most radical alterations in the new Russia as women strive to emulate foreign role

models and fit into imported fashions.

As hemlines descend in Milan and London, they rise here. The underground is full of Lycra mini-skirts stretched as tight as tent canvas over large posteriors. I glimpsed three women studying diet charts and one trying to decipher the instructions on a German meal-replacement pack.

The women's magazine *Rabotnitsa* (Female Worker), which sells 12 million copies across the Commonwealth of Independent States, has latched on to the trend, inviting readers to write in with their slimming cures and preparing to elect its

champion slimmer of the year. The prize is a refrigerator. Alla Krasinskaya, the magazine's home editor, said that one of the main problems for Russian slimmers is acquiring and storing fresh, non-fattening foods.

The cures offered are mainly draconian starvation diets, often coupled with exaggerated claims of success. One 13-year-old girl from Chelyabinsk, in the Urals, wrote: "I lost 20kg (44lb) in a month. I didn't eat for the first three days and then I drank juice and ate porridge only — easy!" An earnest correspondent from St Petersburg recommended an apple diet consisting of one apple for

breakfast, two for lunch and three for dinner.



Nelli P., from Uzbekistan, informed magazine readers that women in her republic drink their own urine. "It

keeps us thin and makes our complexion smooth."

Mrs Krasinskaya, a trim incarnation of new womanhood, with pictures of Versace designs on her office wall "for dreaming about", reflected that the changes in outlook began when Raisa Gorbachev became First Lady. "Before that, the leaders' wives were stolid and unfashionable. Raisa showed that it was possible to be politically involved but still attractive and fashion-conscious. Now women are a bit disappointed by Naina Yeltsin; she looks a bit like President Bush's wife."

She is concerned that the diet craze will cause health

problems. "Russians have a tendency to extremes. I see from many of the letters that people think of losing weight as a kind of competition. Very few have any idea about keeping a balanced diet and we already have reports of anorexia among young girls."

● Cairo: Nine million citizens from the former Soviet Union took advantage of new freedoms to travel abroad last year, Russia's leading tourism executive told a travel agents conference in Cairo yesterday. Vladimir Malinin, president of the Intourist travel agency, said that he expected ten million people from Russia to travel abroad in 1992.

Vatican and Mexico re-establish links

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Vatican said yesterday it was re-establishing diplomatic relations with Mexico, after a history of state animosity towards the church and periods of persecution of Christians.

Mexico is to send an ambassador to the Holy See and an apostolic nuncio is to be appointed in Mexico City. Mexico severed relations with the Vatican in the 1860s. The country has a tradition of anticlericalism but also a strong Roman Catholic Church. Under the 1917 revolutionary constitution, the church was denied all juridical recognition. In the 1920s there was a

Catholic rebellion in western Mexico. Churches were burnt and priests hung.

After 1940, a *modus vivendi* between church and state was achieved: anti-clerical laws were not repealed but were no longer strictly observed.

The present Pope has been keen to improve ties with Mexico, visiting the country early in his pontificate. In 1979, two years ago he made a second trip, and President Salinas de Gortari visited the Vatican. Last year, the Mexican constitution was amended to recognise the church and its institutions.

Tehran threatens to shoot down aircraft over disputed islands

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

IRAN is prepared to shoot down any aircraft violating its air space as tension grows over disputed islands in the Gulf, according to General Mansur Sattari, the air force commander. He said on Tehran radio yesterday that his aircraft were stepping up their watch over the contentious clutch of islands headed by Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz, also claimed by the United Arab Emirates. His pilots were ready to repulse any intrusion by "mischievous foreigners".

"The air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will act with greater vigilance," said the general. "Any aircraft violating Iran's airspace will be forced to make an emergency landing or, if necessary, will be shot." The air force commander said all the equipment and spare parts required to keep its planes flying were now manufactured in Iran. These include American-built Phantom and F14 Tomcats. In February the general said that Iran had deployed Russian-made MiG29 fighters and Sukhoi-24 attack planes as well as F7a, Chinese versions of the MiG21.

Egypt's semi-official media yesterday launched a savage, government-directed broadside against Iran for seizing

control of the Arab-owned islands and drew an ominous parallel with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The attack and a pledge of co-ordinated Arab action coincided with the arrival here for talks of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan, president of the emirates, which claims that the islands are part of its territory and declared that it was taking the dispute to international arbitration.

Iran has accused the Western allies of deliberately whipping up the crisis, which coincides with mounting concern at Iran's territorial ambitions and acquisition of weaponry. Iraq, meanwhile, has offered to intercede on behalf of the Arab majority from which it has been isolated since last year's Gulf war.

The roots of the trouble go back to the eve of the formation of the UAE in 1971 when Iran dispatched troops to the largest island of Abu Musa and to neighbouring, uninhabited islands called the Lesser and Greater Tunbs. No agreement was reached with the Emirate of Ras al-Khaimah over the Tunbs, but Britain brokered a pact with Sharjah for shared control of Abu Musa.

Last month, Iran unilaterally reneged on that deal, con-

vincing many Western observers that it planned to use the island in the shipping lane which carries half the world's oil as a base for three submarines that it is now purchasing from Russia.

"So let Iran go astray and violate legitimacy and the law," wrote Samir Ragab, a close confidant of President Mubarak in yesterday's *Egyptian Gazette*. He said: "But it has to learn the law-of-the-jungle eras are long over and that it is not in the interest of people to stand against the international community. It can take an example from Saddam Hussein."

"Once again Cairo [which helped organise the anti-Iraq coalition] stands with right and proclaims that the three UAE islands will remain Arab despite the tricks and vicious manoeuvres of the Persians."

When Syria, an Arab ally of Iran, attempted to intervene at the weekend it was informed that Tehran refused to drop its claim to full sovereignty over Abu Musa. The official Iranian news agency later reported: "Abu Musa will become one of the most beautiful islands in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future." Its dispatch was dated "Abu Musa, Hormuzgan Province", the mainland province which Iran now insists includes Abu Musa — rather as Iraq insisted that Kuwait was its 19th province.

"The coarse Iranian aggression against Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb island should not be tolerated in silence," said the Cairo paper *Al-Gomhouriya* yesterday. "The Iranian aggression should be faced strongly by a United Arab attitude."

Another Cairo daily, *Al-Akhbar*, asserted that the documents proved all three islands belonged to the UAE. It declared that the dispute had "revealed Iran's ambitions to some Arab lands and its attempt to impose its hegemony by force".



Rocky path: John Lundstrom walking with 508lb of stone in Highland Games at Loon Mountain, New Hampshire. A Canadian beat him by an inch

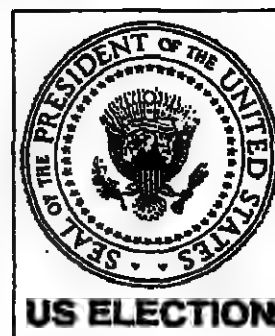
Clinton begins TV attack on Bush economic record

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton, rocked by the Republicans' assault on his Vietnam draft record, has sharply increased his attacks on President Bush's economic stewardship and begun airing the first negative commercial of the autumn campaign.

Opinion polls show the Democrat well ahead in key states of the Mid-West, the region where Mr Bush must decisively outperform his opponent on November 3 if he is to regain the White House. Mr Bush seems unable to find a potent theme to narrow the gap. With six weeks to go, Mr Clinton leads the president by 19 points in Illinois, eight in Ohio and 21 in Missouri — states that have voted Republican in all the last three presidential elections. Even in Indiana, Vice-President Dan Quayle's home state where no Democrat has won in 28 years, Mr Clinton and the president are level-pegging.

Yesterday in Chicago, Mr Clinton received the endorsement of more than 400 corporate chief executives. A national poll in *USA Today* showed Mr Clinton leading Mr Bush by 52 per cent to 36 on economic matters despite the president's efforts to portray him as an old-style tax-and-spend liberal. The previous evening the Arkansas governor had chosen another critical Mid-West state, Michi-



US ELECTION

gan, to launch his harshest attack yet on Mr Bush's economic record.

Speaking in Macomb County, a stronghold of blue-collar, white "Reagan Democrats" north of Detroit, Mr Clinton accused President Bush of paying lip service to traditional values while worshipping "the quick buck" and rewarding those who "cut corners and cut deals". Workers in car manufacturing factories had been decimated in the past four years, he said, "but if you take corporations apart, you're a big winner".

Mr Bush's promised across-the-board tax cuts would give a millionaire enough to buy a Maserati, an average working family enough for a tank of petrol, he said. Having spent four years railing at big government, Mr Bush was now "throwing money around at election time like there was no tomorrow".

The Clinton camp has also begun airing a 30-second advertisement in key states that punctuates a damning commentary on America's economic performance with clips of President Bush promising 30 million new jobs over eight years, denying any recession and insisting "the economy is strengthening". The advertisement asks how President Bush could solve the economic problem if he did not even understand it.

A spokeswoman for the Bush campaign called the latest advertisement a "diversionary tactic" to distract attention from Mr Clinton's evasiveness on the draft dodging issue.

Shanghai Liu takes lid off China's love life

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN SHANGHAI

LIU Dalia rummaged in the cupboard and emerged with a small, crudely fashioned pottery boat. He lifted off the awning on the deck to reveal a man and woman, their naked bodies entwined. This is just one piece of Mr Liu's collection of antique erotica.

Mr Liu is China's foremost sexologist, whose book, *Sexual Behaviour in Modern China*, is released this month. It is the first comprehensive survey of sexual activity in China

and its nearly 900 pages are full of statistics, such as only about 13 per cent of people regularly make love naked.

Trained as a sociologist, Mr Liu helped to organise Shanghai's first series of lectures on sex in 1985. Afterwards he received 500 letters telling stories of ignorance and frustration. He decided, against advice, to set up his own research centre. His wife was afraid he would be laughed at, so he agreed to use a pen

name. Even today, Mr Liu is a controversial character.

He put his survival so far down to a more open attitude towards sex which has developed with moves towards economic openness, and also his own caution. "There are things which I can discuss with my colleagues which I couldn't lecture on," he said.

Communist leaders claim that, because of ordinary people's "low cultural level", they cannot be trusted to make up

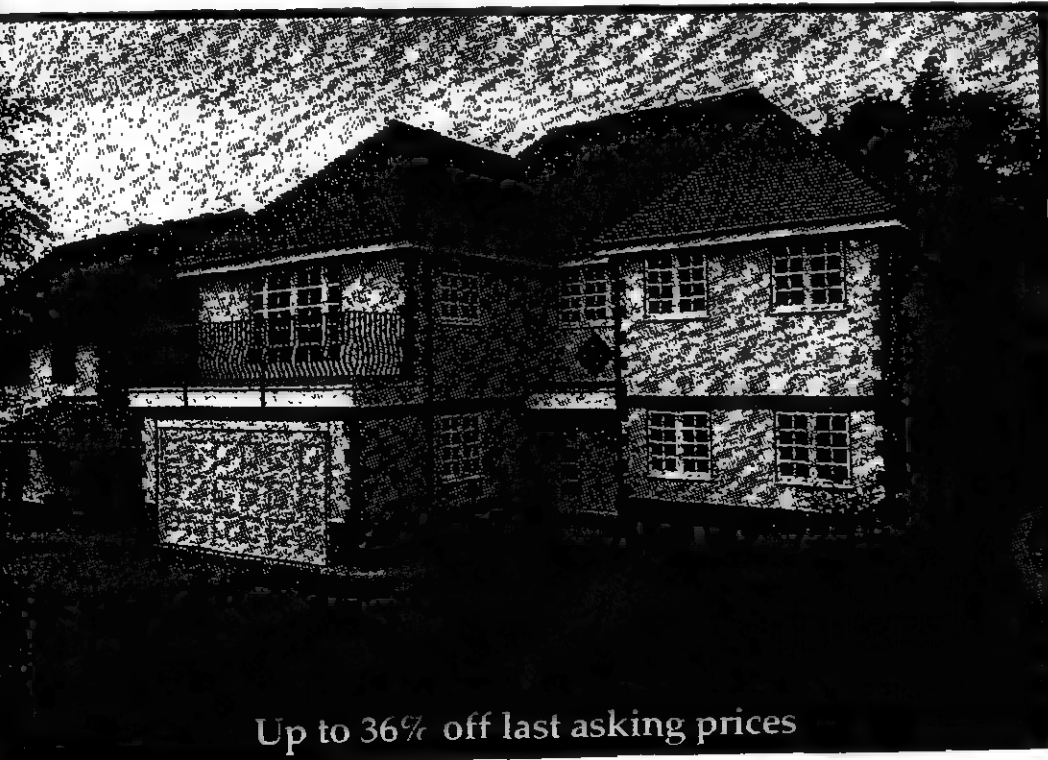
their own minds about things sexual. Pornography is on the government hitlist, but Mr Liu suggested that sometimes it can enhance the sex life of a married couple. He gestured at his ornaments, which in pre-communist days were used as sex education aides for new brides. "I can buy these things. It's my work, the police won't arrest me. But for an ordinary person to put them in his shop window would be impossible."



Al-Ahram's view of Iran's President Rafsanjani

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Woodrow Wyatt

We don't need a referendum on Maastricht here

The prime minister would be foolish to hold a referendum on Maastricht. The campaign would spawn wild and exaggerated claims on both sides exacerbating divisions in the Tory and Labour parties. We need reflection, not a slanging match, to reach an approximate national consensus. At the French government only scraped a Yes vote by a whisker it is obvious that a referendum here would be rejected by a substantial majority and humiliate the government. John Major understands that; he should act as though we have already had a painless referendum.

Now is his great chance to end bruising squabbles and respond to the nation's mood. The great majority accept that the single market has huge advantages and wish to remain in it. What sticks in the gullet is the attempt to turn it into a centralised political union ruled by bureaucrats who sincerely believe they know better than we do what is best for us. The Brussels bureaucrats took a hiding on Sunday and they know it. The moment is ripe to impose on them a clear, legal definition of the limits of their powers, to subordinate and make them withdraw many powers they have assumed. This has to be done anyway to satisfy the objections of the Danes, without whose consent a reshaped Maastricht treaty cannot be ratified. It has to be reshaped, not merely to suit the Danes but half France and possibly more than half Germany as well as other European countries with strong claims to join the Community.

Apart from leaving open our decision on joining the single currency and the central European bank, we opted out of the social charter at Maastricht, maintaining our right to decide our own conditions of work. The ruse by which Brussels has been trying to control them under the rules relating to health must be formally disclaimed.

Maastricht references to the improbable dream "of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe" must be deleted. It is clearly not what the peoples of Europe want. The single currency and the central European bank are in the same category and the ERM blew itself up last week. If France and the Benelux countries wish to tie themselves to the German mark that is their affair. The ERM functioning must be completely changed before we re-enter it unthinkingly for years.

Tory newspapers, prolific in their demands for Mr Lamont's resignation (they do not quite dare to ask for Mr Major's though he and Mr Lamont were as Tweedledum and Tweedledee) should rejoice at their skilful handling of the currency turbulence. It was not wrong to be flexible over interest rates last Wednesday in an endeavour to meet our obligations to the ERM. Happily, it led to our present freedom to allow the pound, like the dollar, to find different levels against different currencies.

Some businessmen, enthusiasts for the ERM until they yelled to get out because it hurt them, now clamour for large interest rate cuts. I never supported our being in the ERM but thought that, in or out, we could not have interest rates much lower than Germany's for fear of large amounts of cash moving from Britain to Germany and pushing the pound further down. As we must continue the drive against inflation and increased public spending or be superseded, this is still the case. Boldness combined with caution is the Major-Lamont approach. They deserve our backing.

The case of Dr Cox demonstrates exactly how the law ought to work in a humane society, argues Janet Daley

The doctors' dilemma

The jury who tried Dr Nigel Cox were scarcely less wracked by their moral dilemma than the man they had in the dock. What does it mean, after all, to do right? The question goes back to Plato but now it usually takes the form: is acting morally the same thing as acting legally? And if not, does that mean that there is something gravely wrong with the law?

In sentencing Dr Nigel Cox to a 12-month suspended sentence, Mr Justice Ognall faced the ancient riddle and, straining the words available to him to their logical limits, effected a compromise between humanity and blind justice.

There could be no question, he said, that Dr Cox's decision to cause the death of his patient, Mrs Lillian Boyes, was a crime. While making it clear that such conduct could never be legally excused, Mr Justice Ognall said that it could, in this case, be explained. Wading further into the conundrums which have been raised by the case, Mr Justice Ognall referred to what he called "the duty of a

physician". This was, in his own word, "unequivocal" and it clearly precluded deliberately causing a patient to die.

He returned several times in his remarks to Dr Cox's "clear duty" as a doctor, opposing it to his understandable distress as a friend and, presumably, a fellow human being, at the sight of Mrs Boyes's terrible suffering. The judge was, in other words, suggesting that Dr Cox's role as a professional was to be seen as quite separate from his inclinations as a private person. If he was to behave legally, he might well have to forgo his own personal moral impulses.

There is nothing remarkable about this. Such an assumption is fundamental to the rule of law in what Plato would have called a just state. An objective set of rules which we all agree to accept even when they occasionally go against our inclinations, is necessary for

any ordered society. And one of the rules with which we are most reluctant to tamper is the one which says that it is wrong to kill people.

But the defining of a doctor's role as being to preserve life at all costs has been superseded by technology. Since it is now possible to perform miracles undreamt of by Hippocrates, we have legally recognised that the prolonging of life by relentless medical intervention is unacceptable. Not only may the incurable be permitted to die peacefully but the relief of suffering may even be given a higher priority than life itself since pain-relieving drugs which hasten death are perfectly legal. Dr Cox's crime was that the drug which he gave to Mrs Boyes could not have been intended to do anything but end her life.

Potassium chloride is not a pain-killer and therefore, in ad-

ministering it, Dr Cox was neither preserving life nor relieving suffering. All that he was doing was killing his patient. But when suffering cannot be stopped by even the largest doses of pain-killers, how are we to interpret a doctor's professional obligation to relieve it? When a life consists of nothing but hopeless suffering, does the doctor's moral responsibility become the releasing of a patient from that life?

The fact that the courts, in the person of particular hapless jurors, are left to muddle through such horrific questions while the law speaks in grand inhuman generalities, does not mean that the system has failed. To declare, as the jury did, that Dr Cox was guilty of attempted murder was unquestionably correct, not only in a flat-footed semantic sense but in a moral one. The fact that they wept while they did so does not

contradict the soundness of their judgment. And it was quite wicked for advocates of euthanasia to have stated that the jury should be ashamed of their verdict. For the judge to further declare that Dr Cox had been in clear breach of his duty as a physician, but then to mitigate that judgment with obvious compassion and leniency does not make the law or the morality it represents an ass.

On the contrary, this is precisely how the law ought to work in a civilised society. To accommodate individual circumstances without corrupting basic principles, is an absolutely sound basis for a humane system of justice. It has its roots in John Stuart Mill's reformed brand of utilitarianism. Mill saw that the crude equation of morality with "the greatest happiness of the greatest number" was open to absurd abuse. Imagine a society consisting of ten

people, eight of whom are sadists whose happiness will be most effectively maximised by torturing the remaining two. So he modified the philosophy: the rules of a game may sometimes seem unfair or unsatisfactory, the leg-before-wicket rule in cricket, for example, while at the same time — taken over a period — making for a better game.

In the same way, following the rules of morality may, in some circumstances, yield up unacceptable results. But in the end, we are better off having the rule than dismantling it. On the whole, going for policies which make the largest number of people happy is a good thing, even though there are exceptions. And, on the whole, it is right to treat the taking of life, even by a doctor, as a crime.

If occasionally we have to deal with a harrowing exception, it is perfectly right and proper that we show humanity and leniency. In doing that, we are not challenging the soundness of the general rule but simply accepting that life, unlike the law, does not consist of principles but of people.

He would put the prosperity of his country first, says Nicholas Ridley

John Major and his supporters in Cabinet still seem to be unaware of the magnitude of the disaster that has overtaken their policy of giving priority to membership of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM). It has failed: we have devalued substantially, and the mechanism has proved itself incapable of holding currency parities which the markets do not accept.

The British economy has been sacrificed on the altar of the ERM. Appalling and quite unnecessary damage has been done to business, jobs, profits, exports, house prices and mortgage holders. Far from getting economic growth we have thrown away some 4 per cent of gross national product on a dogma that rested on faulty economics and a very un-Tory belief that one "could buck the markets". The most depressing situation is that Mr Major and his cabinet still do not seem to have learnt the lesson. They still seem to hanker to get back in. They realise that some time must be allowed to elapse. They are beginning to cobble up conditions for a reformed ERM, but the ultimate policy objective of rejoining still seems to remain.

Those very conditions first aired by Mr Major last week and then by Norman Lamont in Washington over the weekend show how little they have understood the sheer impossibility of what they have been trying to do and still seem to want to go on doing. It smacks of the obstinacy of pride rather than of guts and consistency. Defending the impossible is the hallmark of failures not the characteristic of victors.

Those conditions appear to be three. First, no one should talk during a currency price crisis or say anything about markets and prices. Second, central banks should intervene earlier when a currency comes under strain in the ERM and buy heavily before the markets sent victory. Third, there should be friendly realignment of interest rates all the time to suit all members of the ERM.

The first condition is merely petulant. The government has tried to make the German Bundesbank scapegoat for what happened. There will always be leaks and rumours. Lies down and damned lies. The trouble is that the system is such that talk has an important effect on operators in the market. It told them something. By setting up a floor to the pound's value, any suggestion that it might be the wrong floor increases the likelihood of a good one-way bet against it.

Markets price currencies, not governments, and the markets had known the pound was overvalued for weeks. All they needed to discover was whether governments and central banks had realised this and were going to do something about it. The fault was not indiscreet words but trying to resist the markets. The idea of a new ERM treaty containing a clause that no one will say anything cannot be taken seriously.

The second condition is equally flawed but infinitely more expensive. Germany and Britain both spent billions of our money in fruitless intervention to save the lira, the pound and other currencies last week. The needless giving of substantial public funds to dealers through needless intervention is a disgrace. What have the taxpayers got for the money lost on intervention last week? Nothing. Intervention cannot work and never has worked in the face of a serious assault upon a currency, and should be abandoned. (It can be harmless in smoothing currency changes in quiet times but even then it is unnecessary.) After all it is illegal for a company to intervene to support its own share price. Nor does it work, because sooner or later it is spotted, and the markets quickly adjust to discount its effects. The government should be ashamed of its recent 10 billion eu loan, part of which it totally wasted, when intervening last week. That debt will have to be repaid one day. To intervene earlier is thus to have an opportunity to waste money earlier as well as later. Early intervention may buy a few more days or weeks of stability, but in no way removes the cause of the trouble which is an overvalued currency. It is impossible to argue that earlier intervention by central banks could have had any effect on last week's crisis other than to make more dealers richer earlier as well as rich last week.



When national interests clash: a squabbling Chancellor Kohl and the prime minister as seen by Le Monde this weekend

Mr Major thinks inflation is the chief evil (and so do I). So why should he be cross if the Germans do what he would have done if he had been a German? The Bundesbank, moreover, has a statutory duty to defend the value of the mark. Does he really think they should break the law just to suit us?

It so happened that at the same time we wanted lower interest rates to relieve the pressure on the British economy. But because of the ERM constraint we could not lower them. So we pursued a high interest rate policy, despite the very great damage it was doing, for no other reason than to appease the Germans. It is impossible and wrong to accept situations where nations do damaging things to their own economies just for the

love of other nations. An ERM where there was some way of cajoling or forcing one member state to do what another wanted is one where millions could be made bankrupt or unemployed, or where inflation could get out of hand for no conceivable good reason. It would no longer be an exchange rate mechanism; it would be a single currency. That is why the Maastricht treaty is so wrong, and why it should be dropped. But to argue that the precursor of economic and monetary union (EMU) — the ERM — has failed, so therefore we should go on to EMU is perverse indeed, and makes frighteningly clear the extent to which the government has still not got the message.

None of these three conditions makes any sense, nor is there a car's chance in hell of any of them being accepted. They will all make

matters worse on a future occasion. The lesson is that there must not be a future occasion. We must never repeat the dangerous policy of the past. To go back into the ERM after a devaluation would be to invite the whole costly and damaging saga to repeat itself. I earnestly entreat that we don't get bitten again.

If some countries on the continent want to persist, if we are to have a two-speed Europe, so be it: that is their lookout. I do not see disadvantages in Germany and the Benelux countries keeping the present arrangement, but to force Britain and the others in as part of an ideological goal of monetary union is something to which we should say "never again".

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury 1959-1992.

...and moreover



CRAIG BROWN

From time to time, this column is given over to a leading figure in the world of politics or the arts to deliver his verdict on Britain's place in the world. Today, leading British film director Michael Winner, whose films include the long-awaited remake of *Mary Poppins*, *Mary Poppins Cop Killer*, attacks the prevailing cliché of the British cinema:

When I first came into our industry back in the early Fifties, there were over 100 different agencies, all of them anxious that I should make movies for them. In those heady years, I succeeded in making a great many distinguished and profitable movies, including *"Bride Encounter 3"*, in which the Celia Johnson character, played by Diana Dors, finally succumbs to a dirty weekend at a nudist colony with the Trevor Howard character, played by Charles Hawtrey — leading to no end of saucy capers!

On a deeper level, there was also my distinguished and widely acclaimed British film about the life of the great philosopher, Wittgenstein, *"Carry On Thinking"*, with the late lamented Sid James as Wittgenstein and my very good friend Barbara Windsor as the incorrigible Dora Russell.

Headly days, indeed, and I am proud to have played my part in the heyday of what was once a Great British Industry. At that time, we didn't bother about social significance or messages: we were far too interested in telling a great story. For instance, I hope I may be allowed, in all

humility, to mention one of my own great movies from the Sixties, the 1968 low-budget remake of *Lawrence of Arabia*, called *"Lawrence of Guldford"* and filmed entirely on location, best remembered by film buffs for its ten-minute shot of the Omar Sharif character, played by Reg Varney, resplendent in his old sheet, riding his three-speed bicycle over the Hog's Back.

Well, that movie told a great story, earned a fortune at the box office (propping up Dr Zhivago, with which it went on general release) and allowing those of us who love this industry and ourselves to feel very proud indeed. Comedy, too, was my forte: there was laughter all the way in my *"Massacre at St Trinian's"*, the sixth (and last) of that famous series.

On a more personal note, as the British film industry was going down the pan in the Seventies, I moved my operations to America, where they still seemed to know the meaning of sheer, honest-to-goodness entertainment and where profit was not a dirty word. In vastly enjoyable movies of mine like *"Cold-Blooded Massacre"*, *"Bloodbath 3"*, *"Kill Jill"* and my remake of *Lady and the Tramp*, *"Lady and the Roguella"*, I wasn't afraid to offer a good, old-fashioned night out to the average cinema-goer. For just ten dollars, they could witness on average 12 vicious slayings, 15 unwarranted murders and over 23 revenge massacres per movie, and still come out with spare change for a hot dog. And why should profit be

considered such a dirty word? I once said to the late Orson Welles, "Orson I said, Orson, I love your movies. They've been a great influence on my own movies. And I can't praise them higher than that." To which I feel sure Orson would have replied, if only he'd still been alive. Yet the fact remains that *Citizen Kane*, though it is considered by many to be just as entertaining a movie as my own *"Bloodbath 3"*, never made a profit. Orson lacked the commercial touch, and tragically failed to recognise that these days it doesn't matter how artistic a movie might be: if it hasn't got a good, old-fashioned revenge killing every three to four minutes, it'll be a box office turkey.

You see, these days the people who run what is left of the British film industry think that a message is more important than a pump-action machine gun and that social significance is more crucial than healthy fun-for-all-the-family staples such as mass carnage, masked rapists and hooded prowlers with knives galore. Small wonder, then, that the industry that was once able to boast a healthy profit from such minor masterpieces such as my own *"Sound of Music 2: The Hills' Revenge"* and *"Bloodbath 15"* has now lost me to Hollywood. We are all agreed that this is very, very sad.

Only when the British film money has come up with the money to invest in a brand new Michael Winner movie will I be persuaded to return to these shores. And if that's not an incentive, I don't know what is.

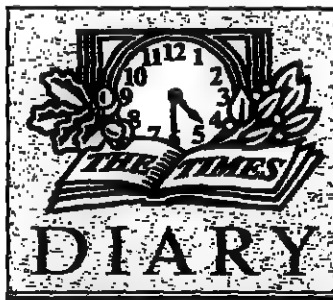
Sterling efforts to be ready

AS THE party whips spend the week furiously rounding up their errand boys for Thursday's recall of Parliament, one who may be quite grateful for the early return to duty is Roger Freeman, the stunt-prone transport minister. The sterling crisis and the hasty scheduling of the emergency debate has forced him to cancel his long-planned "fact-finding" trip to Siberia on the famous railway from Moscow and on across the wastes of Mongolia.

"He still intends to go," says one of Freeman's aides, "but it may not be until next year now."

Freeman is not the only one to cancel or cut short travel arrangements. Yesterday the Westminster authorities increased their frantic activity in order to have everyone and everything in place by Thursday. A quick tour of the Palace of Westminster revealed that large chunks of it resemble nothing so much as a building site and where one normally expects to see smartly-uniformed flunkies there are only blue-overalled workmen. Corridors are closed, carpets are up and plaster is hanging off the walls. Henry Webber, director of works at the Commons, says: "When we heard that Parliament was being recalled our people walked round the building with members of the Sergeant at Arms and Black Rod's offices to see which services could be restored in time. It would have been even harder to cope with two or three weeks ago."

With John Major already forced out of Downing Street by the builders, if Parliament had also been compelled to meet elsewhere it would have only added to the air of crisis. Happily Webber confidently predicts that most of the Commons will be habitable in time



carat set of seven coins minted this year as a prototype of the British Ecu. At just £27.50 for the collection, events of the past week look likely to turn the coins into collectors' items. "Buy a piece of British history," runs the slogan.

Bard member

SIR William Shakespeare has become a trustee of the Shakespeare Globe project which is seeking to build a faithful recreation of the original Elizabethan theatre on London's Bankside.

Sir William, a distinguished member of the medical profession, is a direct descendant of Shakespeare's cousin John and an enthusiastic student of his ancestor's works. But he insists the invitation from Sam Wanamaker, the

Globe's chief executive, was as unexpected as the appearance of the ghost of Hamlet's father.

"I simply do not know how he found me," said Sir William from his Buckinghamshire home yesterday. "But I am very pleased to be involved with the Globe and hope that my name — or is it his? — will help in raising necessary funds."

●Zubin Mehta has discovered a way to avoid the nightly jam of Pavarotti fans who gather at the stage door of Covent Garden. The ebullient conductor of the hugely successful revival of *Tosca* is surreptitiously ushered by staff to a fire door further up Floral Street and with black Fedora firmly pulled down over his face he makes a dash to his waiting Rolls Royce across the street before being whisked away for a quiet supper.

Res not awfully des

The delights of Candida Lycett Green's country house in Wiltshire are spread all across eight pages of the October issue of *Vogue*. Sumptuous interiors jostle with shots of the rambling garden. The editorial extols the delights of the "dew pond, wild deer and probably the best bluebells in Wiltshire". The Lycett Greens are blissfully happy in their rural idyll, the piece gushes.

Some surprise, then, to see the same picture this week in a property ad in *Country Life*. Surely this blissful home could not be up for sale? Alexandra Shulman, *Vogue's* editor, says: "The piece was put together three months ago. Candida decided to sell only three weeks ago." Pure coincidence, but Lycett Green, the daughter of the late John Betjeman, is a contributing editor of *Vogue*. There's no such thing as a free advert, as Milton Friedman might have said.

●The American National Association of Pessimists — a 200-strong body whose motto is "in front of every silver lining there's a dark cloud" — has provisionally set the date of its next convention to coincide with the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. A spokesman for the association says: "The date is tentative to allow for missed plane connections and other natural disasters."

It's a small Globe.



GED



LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK

The grudging French endorsement of the Maastricht treaty should bring equally grudging celebration in Downing Street. John Major, whose popularity has crashed at a record rate in response to his economic mismanagement, must now use his leadership of the EC to shape a fresh treaty. Then he should ask the British people to support the result.

Until now Mr Major has rejected the use of a British referendum. To remove the decision from the safety of Parliament has seemed to him both politically unwise and a sign of personal weakness. Yesterday his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, reiterated the government's antipathy to giving the British people the same rights as the Danes, the Irish and the French.

Mr Major would be wise to change his mind in favour of a referendum rather than the decision from the safety of Parliament has seemed to him both politically unwise and a sign of personal weakness. Yesterday his foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, reiterated the government's antipathy to giving the British people the same rights as the Danes, the Irish and the French.

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appease the voluble critics in his own party. Mr Major may be holding back for fear of an eventual "no" vote. If so, that would be both dishonourable and foolish. He ought not to impose any constitutional change on a country that does not want it. Nothing, in the long run, would make him more unpopular.

A referendum is not simply a politically pragmatic option; it is also the right one. Mr Hurd was arrogant to suggest yesterday that a ratification of the treaty by Parliament would be democratically sufficient. MPs may be, as he says, "newly elected", but none has an electoral mandate to press ahead with Maastricht. At the last general election British people were not given the chance to vote for a party that did not support Maastricht. It is precisely because policy on Europe has not divided along traditional party lines that a referendum is called for, just as it was in 1975 when both main parties were split over whether Britain should remain in the EC.

Britain is no Switzerland. This country holds referendums only on matters of constitutional importance. The Maastricht treaty or any likely successor is just such a matter. If the people of Britain do not want it, they should not be forced to accept it. But if they do vote for it, their decision could at last rest the country's debilitating ambivalence about European union, just as the 1975 poll established that the question of Britain's EC membership was no longer at issue.

This is why it is important that in the remaining months of the EC presidency, Mr Major should seek to negotiate a package for which he could sincerely recommend a "yes" vote; and one that is likely to attract such an endorsement. In the circumstances in which the Maastricht treaty was agreed, he probably did win for Britain the best deal he could. But circumstances have changed. The Danes have rejected the treaty. Nearly half the French — perhaps the most Europhile people of the Community — have expressed their reservations. The Germans have shown themselves in opinion polls to be three to one against joining the mark. The present economic and monetary union proposals are now unachievable.

All this points to some form of renegotiation of Maastricht. It is idle to suppose that the wholehearted support of the European people can be won simply by appending the odd "clarification" to the treaty. As president of the EC and as the country with the strongest reservations about over-extension of the European Commission's competence, Britain is well placed to address the anxieties of those in Denmark and France who voted no. Mr Major should come back from his October summit with the outline of a treaty that more than a bare majority of Europeans can back. If he achieves that, he should be able to win the support of the British people too.

BUDGETING FOR GROWTH

An unforeseen alliance of French voters, German bankers, international currency traders and his own pride has sucked the life from John Major's economic thinking. Whitehall abhors a vacuum. Unless Britain's future is to be entrusted again to market-buckers, Maastricht-makers and hangers upon the lips of Chancellor Kohl, the prime minister needs a new set of tenets.

Norman Lamont gave a good signal yesterday by saying that the new aim of British policy was "sustained non-inflationary growth". Aggressive cuts in interest rates, linked to lower public spending, lower taxes on investment and a sustained attempt to rebuild political credibility could yet make that aim more than a dream.

Interest rates should be cut to 8 per cent between now and next month's Conservative party conference. Rapid action would have far more impact on confidence than the meagre half-point cuts that have so signally failed since 1990.

Interest rate reductions have to be balanced by lower public borrowing. Now that Britain can set its own interest rates again, reduced public borrowing will make more savings available for private investment. The present PSBR of more than 5 per cent of GDP is far too high to be sustainable. The Maastricht figure of 3 per cent should be treated as a minimum medium-term target. Ideally, the PSBR should be reduced to zero, once full employment is returning.

The exchange rate may fall further as a result of these measures but this should not cause alarm. The best time to have a falling exchange rate is at a time of recession when factories and workers are underemployed. At present a falling pound will not create wage inflation. As the economy strengthens, the pound will rise. There is virtue in a strong pound — but only in strength created because sterling is in demand. A pound which is propped up by high interest rates is not strong at all.

Ultimately the government should aim to cut interest rates to 5 or 6 per cent. This may seem unreasonably low in the light of past British experience. But it is about the level in Australia and Canada and considerably higher than in America and Japan.

If interest rates fell to such levels, substantial cuts in public spending would be needed to maintain the pressure against inflation. No public spending programme should be exempt from re-examination. There will be the closest debate on the merits of any balance between rate cuts and spending cuts and between individual spending priorities. Protection should be greatest for programmes that genuinely protect the poor, for health and education and for investment in transport. Protection should be least for middle-class entitlements and for the bribes to Tory voters that have clogged the tax system over the years.

The biggest economies should be made by

holding down wages throughout the public sector (which have been far less severely hit than private pay). Would Mr Major be bold enough to freeze state pensions for a year? To help the most needy in society, means-tested benefits could be increased by more than the rate of inflation. Child benefits could also be frozen or even cut; and family income support for the poor increased.

Mortgage tax relief should be phased out once the housing market starts to recover. If the government gave notice that new relief would be given only to properties bought within the next 12 months, house purchase would accelerate immediately.

Defence spending should be cut much more aggressively than has been contemplated so far. The European Fighter Aircraft project should be abandoned. Privatisation generally should be accelerated through competitive tendering. British Coal should be quickly sold or even given away.

To increase investment and encourage the entrepreneurship which is the foundation for long-term non-inflationary growth, changes should be made in the capital gains tax. There is a strong case for not taxing capital gains at all, although the kinds of capital gains exempted have to be somewhat circumscribed to stop tax avoidance.

This strategy could be presented as a bid for recovery led by export and investment. Because of the competitive exchange rate, Britain could narrow the trade gap, despite a rapid recovery in domestic demand. The government need not worry about sterling in the short run. A sharp fall in the pound now, when the economy is becalmed, carries far less risk of inflation than would a gradual decline later in the economic cycle when domestic demand would be rising fast. Within two or three years the rapid growth of the economy and productivity should make the pound stronger than it is today. It might even be worth DM2.95.

How can Mr Major make the markets believe in his new strategy? The government is right to say it will watch a whole series of monetary indicators, including broad and narrow money, asset prices and the exchange rate. Mr Major may not want to appear to ape Mrs Thatcher's successful techniques of the early Eighties, but there is much to be said for a broader medium-term financial strategy.

The reforms of budget-making and spending control, announced for next year, ought to increase the credibility of public expenditure targets. They should be brought forward. The need is now.

Mr Major must begin his new battle plan in the House of Commons debate later this week. Although he will face open mockery from his critics, he will also have the chance to show his decisiveness. He can still break away from failure if he is truly minded to do so. In the darkest days of defeat, the brightest ambitions can be born.

Three-point plan of Liverpool Six

From Professor Tim Congdon and others

Sir, We write to welcome the government's decision to leave the European exchange-rate mechanism. There should be no intention whatsoever of rejoining the ERM "when conditions allow". We strongly support Mr Lamont's new principle that "a British economic policy and a British monetary policy" (report, September 19) should be set to meet domestic objectives rather than to fix the exchange rate.

We also agree wholeheartedly with the government's commitment to price stability as its long-run priority in economic policy. But at present significant interest rate reductions are needed in order to promote recovery, to ease the strains in the housing market and to help our major financial institutions rebuild their profits and capital.

If there are such reductions in interest rates, the next few weeks may see a further drop in external value of the pound and a rise in inflation. In our view, the falls in both interest rates and the exchange rate are necessary in current circumstances to combat the severity of the recession. But the government must remain determined to achieve price stability in the longer term. Indeed, the danger that devaluation may be seen as the prelude to renewed inflation emphasises the need to establish a robust framework for monetary policy. We have three main proposals.

1. The Bank of England should be given operational independence from government, in the same way as the Federal Reserve in the United States of America and the Bundesbank in Germany. We believe that operational independence nevertheless has to be reconciled with full parliamentary accountability and so with our democratic institutions.

Our favoured method would be for Parliament to pass at regular intervals (of, say, ten years) a Bank Charter Act which would require the Bank to meet certain objectives. The most important such objective would be of course price stability. Parliament could examine the Bank's senior officials from time to time, to see whether the objectives were being met.

The French vote

From Sir John Killick

Sir, We do not know to what extent the "no" vote in France reflects nothing more than general antipathy to President Mitterrand and the French government. The same may to some extent be true in the opposite sense of the "yes" vote. As a measure of support for or opposition to Maastricht the figures seem to me to be pretty meaningless.

Much the same would surely be true of a referendum held in this country, and that is not the least of the objections to the idea.

It would be interesting to know to what extent French voters were comprehensively and dispassionately informed of the substance of Maastricht, as distinct from being swayed by media hype and heavily slanted party-political rhetoric. How would voters in this country be fairly confronted with the issues? How could the question on such a complicated matter be formulated? How many voters would bother to study the sort of background documentation which ought to be

2. Since inflation is undoubtedly "a monetary phenomenon" (in Milton Friedman's words), the policy framework must include targets for the money supply. Targets for the growth of narrow money have been in force since 1983. We believe that they provide useful information to policy-makers and should be retained.

Our main new recommendation is that the government should set targets for the growth of broad money, which is dominated by bank deposits. Targets for broad money were the centrepiece of economic policy between 1976 and 1985, a decade which saw Britain achieve both a dramatic reduction in inflation and (in the five years to 1986) a fair measure of economic stability. They must be restored. It was the abandonment of money supply targets, along the pegging of sterling at three deutschmarks, that permitted the inflationary excesses of the Lawson boom.

3. The government's principle of balancing the budget over the business cycle should be fully supported. Although the recession is the main cause of the large budget deficit at present, we believe that Treasury ministers are right to seek further cuts in public expenditure. As in 1981, meaningful action to reduce the budget deficit will greatly increase the credibility of policy.

We believe that the announcement of this framework (an independent central bank, money supply targets and a balanced budget) would be greeted with enthusiasm by financial markets — and by the public at large — as an earnest of the government's resolve to restore monetary and economic stability.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CONGDON,
BILL MARTIN,
PATRICK MINFORD,
GORDON PEPPER,
ALAN WALTERS,
PETER WARBURTON,
Liverpool Macroeconomic Research Ltd,
PO Box 147,
Liverpool L69 3BX,
September 21.

Business letters, page 21

In defence of threatened hospitals

From Mr H. N. Whitfield

Sir, It would seem premature for Dr John Chawmer, chairman of the consultants' committee of the British Medical Association, to commit that organisation to supporting the recommendations of the leaked Tomlinson report ("Four top hospitals face closure", report, September 11). Neither he nor anyone else, however, should be surprised by the strength of the opposition that will emerge if these leaks are confirmed.

For those who work in the four inner-London teaching hospitals threatened with closure (St Bartholomew's, St Thomas', University College and Middlesex, and Charing Cross) it is difficult to correlate the reduction in attracting contracts that has occurred with the waiting lists that exist, without reference to the overall level of funding for the National Health Service.

The UK spends less on health care than any other EC country but in terms of value for money the service which is available is second to none, and the waiting lists which exist are the mechanism by which successive governments have enabled this service to be provided for 6 per cent of the GNP (in the United States it is 12 per cent).

The threatened hospitals serve populations which are amongst the most deprived inner-city communities in the country and they contain acknowledged national and international experts. It is inconceivable that a report produced and leaked so quickly should deflect us from providing health care for our own district and for those referred to us from all over the UK or from educating the nation's future doctors.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH N. WHITFIELD
(Consultant urological surgeon),
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Smithfield, EC1,
September 12.

From Dr J. A. Mathews

Sir, Perhaps leaks are a necessary way of testing public opinion before the announcement of a final decision which could be politically damaging. However, even if (as I sincerely hope) the public rejects outright the idea of closing four of London's top hospitals, it can scarcely claim the expertise in providing health care which might validate such a response. Many of us feel that a similar lack of practical and

Mercy for mercy

From Dr Colin Brewer and Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Why not a royal pardon for Dr Nigel Cox, the consultant convicted last week for the attempted murder of a terminally-ill patient (report and leading article, September 21) and given a 12-months' suspended sentence.

In 1936, the Queen's grandfather, George V, had terminal cancer. According to the diaries of the physician, Lord Dawson of Penn, he received, with Queen Mary's approval, and in the privacy of his own home, a lethal injection.

In a Lords debate the same year,

Called to account

From the Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby

Sir, As headmaster of one of the 50 "lame duck" schools receiving more than £500,000 a year from the government's assisted-places scheme (report, September 11) I would point out:

1. Average cost per pupil in the maintained sector, £2,180. Average cost per assisted place at Merchant Taylors' School, £1,900 (on the latest figures made available to me by the Department of Education and Science).
2. Local education authority GCSE pass rate (A-C grades), 50 per cent. Merchant Taylors' 98 per cent.
3. Local education authority A-level results (A-C grades) 47 per cent. Merchant Taylors', 81 per cent.

Perhaps we need more lame ducks.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. R. DAWKINS, Headmaster,
Merchant Taylors' School,
Crosby, Liverpool.

A holy garden, far away

From Mr Peter G. L. Wells

Sir, Exactly 100 years ago, on September 22, 1892, you published a letter from Mr H. A. Campbell and Mr John Murray appealing for funds to purchase the land in Jerusalem which has since come to be known as the Garden Tomb.

The aim of the purchase was to preserve "the tomb and garden outside the walls of Jerusalem, believed by many to be the sepulchre and garden of Joseph of Arimathea". When the purchase was completed in 1894 a society was formed "so that the Garden Tomb, Jerusalem, may be kept sacred as a quiet spot and preserved from desecration".

Today's visitors find the garden a peaceful oasis of calm amidst the hustle and bustle of noisy East Jerusalem. Its trees, shrubs and flowers are typical of Bible times and its very naturalness has helped thousands to visualise the dramatic events of the first Easter morning.

Yours faithfully,
PETER G. L. WELLS,
The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem) Association,
The Garden Tomb, PO Box 19462,
Jerusalem, Israel.

informed opinion exists in government circles.

At one of those four hospitals, St Thomas', a second £500,000 linear accelerator for cancer treatment is currently being installed. A cyclotron producing isotopes for the country's first clinical positron emission tomography scanner (combined cost, £3.4 million) was opened by the Prince of Wales earlier this year. Structural work to enlarge the hospital's accident and emergency department, scheduled to cost over £3 million, is well under way.

Such facts should help to allay anxiety over the future of St Thomas'. However, the track record of government planners in several fields suggests that even investment in new facilities on this huge scale is not an absolute guarantee that the hospital will survive. Demolition soon after new building is not unknown, and a fresh coat of paint can be the worst of ailments.

We at St Thomas' are confident that our administration has planned an exciting future for medicine on its present site. Only if, as in the Old Testament, the writing really was on the wall would we welcome this "cur of pain".

Yours sincerely,
J. A. MATHEWS
(Physician and clinical director,
Rheumatology Department),
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
September 14.

From Dr Monica E. Baly

Sir, Jeremy Laurence's assertion that St Thomas' predates the House of Commons across the Thames is wrong. It was opened by Queen Victoria on its present site on June 21, 1871, some 20 years after the House of Commons. At the time Florence Nightingale declared that it was "the worst site in London". She had advocated a move from Southwark to the bracing air of Blackheath and she never forgave the cost of governors for failing to build a really modern hospital outside London.

In *Notes on Hospitals*, published in 1863, Miss Nightingale published a map showing 20 hospitals within five miles of St Paul's and urged their dispersal. The Tomlinson panel would do well to read it.

Yours faithfully,
MONICA BALY,
19 Royal Crescent, Bath, Avon.

Lord Dawson argued against the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia because it would involve too many formalities and because good doctors could generally be relied on to do it "when the real need is there".

Everyone agrees that Dr Cox is a very good doctor; but most people die in hospital now and are usually treated not by one personal physician but by a team. A royal pardon would be a very appropriate prelude to the changes in the law which are now manifestly needed.

Yours etc.,
COLIN BREWER,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY
(Vice-Presidents),
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8.

Poles, Jews and Nazis

From Mr Jan Sek

Sir, I write in my personal capacity, rather than as a diplomat, to take issue with an ungenerous article by Clifford Longley ("The Nazis in Auschwitz should pick up and leave", September 5). He argued that we Poles must be "perpetually reminded" of having been the "accomplices" of the Nazis in murdering millions of Jews. Such remarks are both offensive and untrue.

The truth is that many Poles were murdered by Nazis, their only offence having been harbouring fugitive Jews in what was an unparalleled nationwide operation of charity. According to the famous Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, my countrymen saved from certain death some 30,000 Jews. At least one highly responsible historian, Dr Wladyslaw Zajaczkowski, has put the figure far higher.

I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,
JAN SEK,
Embassy of the Republic of Poland,
47 Portland Place, W1.

Circle of incentive

From Mr John Lewis

Sir, Your transport correspondent's report on British Rail's fare-cutting exercise (September 17) stated that customers spending £5 or more in Boots shops receive a voucher enabling two people to travel on long-distance rail journeys for the price of one. I normally buy petrol at a garage where, once I have purchased a sufficient number of litres, I am entitled to a £5 token for spending in any Boots shop.

All I now need is for British Rail to offer petrol vouchers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LEWIS,
Sulridge House, Medstead,
Nr Alton, Hampshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 21: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Surrey, this morning attended the 1992 Conference on Engineering Education, Guildhall, Portsmouth, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).
His Royal Highness, President of the Royal Armaments Development Trust, this afternoon visited Portsmouth Enterprise Centre, Fort Nelson, Portsmouth.
Commander Roger Walker, Royal Navy, was in attendance.
The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Ilchester Cheese Company's new premises, Ilchester, and was met on arrival by the Lord Lieutenant for Somerset (Colonel Walter Luttrell).
Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited HMS Heron, Yeovil, Somerset and later opened the Exeter and District Hospice and was met on arrival by Sir John Palmer (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Devon).
Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Dr Dannie Abse, poet, 69; Sir George Cardant, former vice-chancellor, University of Tasmania, 80; Miss Maria Charles, actress, 63; Dr David Drewry, director, British Antarctic Survey, 45; Professor S.E. Elner, former professor of government, 77; Mr William Franklin, actor, 66; Miss Gina Frattini, fashion designer, 61; Mr Colin Graham, opera director, 61; the Earl of Gullford, 59; Sir James Hargreaves, former chairman, Foreign Commission, 81; Professor Sir Frederick Holliday, former vice-chancellor, Durham University, 57; Mr Graham Jones, headmaster, Repton School, 48; Miss Deborah Levin, principal, Trevelyan College, Durham University, 53; Professor Norbert Lynton, art historian, 65; Sir Charles Mander, company chairman, 71; Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman, Slough Estates, 55; Lord Moran, 68; Captain Mark Phillips, equestrian rider, 44; Lord Saye and Sele, 72; Miss Fay Weldon, writer, 61; Sir John Wicks, former president, Law Society, 55; Lord Younger of Prestwick, 61.

Memorial concert

Mr Sydney Harpley
A memorial concert for Mr Sydney Harpley was held yesterday at the Royal Academy of Arts. The speaker was Sir Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Mr Chris Beales and Mrs Harpley, widow.
Dr David Jowles and Miss Nicola Cleary (violin), Miss Yvonne Kew (piano) and Mr Richard Bannister (cello) performed Handel's *Sonata Op 5 No 2*, Debussy's *Sonata for Violin and Piano* and Beethoven's *Trio*.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will visit the headquarters of Marie Stopes International at 62 Carlton Way, W1, at 10.15, and as Patron of the Year of Dance (1993), will attend a luncheon at the Arts Council of Great Britain, 14 Great Peter Street, at 12.30.
Princess Margaret, as Patron of the Royal College of Nursing, will attend a reception and dinner at the Savoy Hotel at 7.45 and present the Nursing Standard/Bupa Nurse 92 Award.
The Duke of Gloucester, as Honorary President of the Scottish Society of Architect Artists, will open the annual exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, at 2.35.
The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the London Philharmonic, will attend a fund-raising gala concert at the Festival Hall at 7.25.

Princess Alexandra will present the Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on Velum to No 291 (Covbridge) Squadron Air Training Corps at Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, at 2.50, and will visit the PDSA shop at 229 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, at 3.50.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London
The American Ambassador was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Marriott Hotel. Mr Neville Shulman, president, was in the chair. The Ambassadors of France, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Senegal attended.



Robert Holland, of Cummock, Strathclyde, kissing his prize-winning onion — at 11lb 2oz said to be the biggest in the world — at the National Kelsae Onion Festival in Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Vote on women priests

Church curb on public at key debate

By RUTH GLENDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FEMINISTS in the Church of England have criticised the allocation of tickets for members of the public to watch the decisive vote on women priests in November.
After allocating tickets to synod members and the press, only 20 seats remain for the public to watch the established church vote on one of the most significant decisions it will take this century.
Monica Furlong, a feminist theologian, writing in this week's *Church Times*, criticises the lack of space. She says: "I am concerned that, uniquely in the history of

debates in general synod, there will not be public access to the debate.
"It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the church wishes to conduct this debate as far as possible under wraps, maybe because it fears some outbreak of spontaneous feeling, or (I would like to believe) because it feels some shame at having its prejudices once again exposed to public view."
She said the people who had tolled for years against or for women priests deserved to be present at the debate.
One synod member is auctioning a ticket she won in a ballot to raise money for her church roof. The Movement for the Ordination of Women

has booked rooms in the Methodist Westminster Central Hall, opposite Church House, the headquarters of the Church of England. Supporters of women priests will be invited to watch the debate and vote on November 11 on live television.
A spokesman for the church said it was untrue that the public will be denied access to the debate and vote.
The Rev Eric Shegog, director of communications, said: "The problem is simple. We cannot get everyone in who would like to be there." All 566 synod members will not fit in the debating chamber and have been allocated 90 seats in the public gallery,

which has 192 seats. A room has been set aside at Church House where the debate will be televised for those who cannot be accommodated in the gallery.
The debate will be broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio Four. The former Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, has said that the ordination of women priests could become a fundamental belief with the status of being necessary for salvation, while "radical or heretical interpretations of the formularies continue to pass unchallenged in official quarters."
Dr Leonard was speaking at the annual conference of the Prayer Book Society.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J. Ballour and **Miss M.V. Penit**
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Ballour, of Backwell, Bristol, and Mary, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs A. Penit, of Gillingham, Dorset.
Mr A.J. Da Costa and **Miss A.D. Walsh**
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Squadron Leader and Mrs F.A. Da Costa, of Lincoln, and Alison, only daughter of Dr and Mrs G.P. Walsh, of Blackburn, Lancashire.
M.H. Fèvre and **Miss E.C.L. Barendse**
The engagement is announced between Hubert, elder son of M and Mme Philippe Fèvre, of Veyrier-du-Lac, France, and Eleanor Catherine Lindsey, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Barendse, of Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire.
Mr P.A.C. Hammond and **Miss E.C.L. Drake**
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hammond, of Evesham, Hereford, Hampshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Tom Drake and the late Monica Drake, and stepdaughter of Sonia Drake, of Caer-Ogo, Porthmadog, Gwynedd.

Mr M.G. Shelley and **Florence Viscountess Hardinge**
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of the late Mr and Mrs John Shelley, of St Boswells, Roxburghshire, and Florence (née von Oppenheim), daughter of the late Baron Harold von Oppenheim, of Cologne, and Mrs Alexander de Talascy, of Paris.
Captain A.J. Weale and **Miss M.C. Glynn**
The engagement is announced between Adrian John, son of Dr and Mrs K.E. Weale, of Elmwood Road, Chiswick, London, W4, and Mary Caroline, daughter of Sir Alan Glynn, ERD, and the Lady Rousa Glynn, of Cadogan Place, London, SW1.

Marriages

Mr J.F. Cassidy and **Miss P.M. Peterzan**
The marriage took place on Friday, September 18, at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London, of Mr Jamie Cassidy, son of Mr and Mrs John Cassidy, of Hale Barnes, Cheshire, to Miss Paula Peterzan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Peterzan, of Cambridge, Canon Vale, Oxfordshire.
The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Jennifer Daly, Amanda Cassidy, Alexander Daly and Jonathan Scudder. Mr John Cassidy was best man.
The reception was held at Seary's and the honeymoon will be spent in Venice.
Mr D.J. Treawell and **Miss J.D. Denham**
The marriage took place on Friday, September 18, in London, between David Treawell, of Josephine Denham, widow of Mr Robert Denham.

Receptions

Baroness Wernock
Baroness Wernock gave a reception last night at the House of Lords for the Harford Society.
Mishcon de Reys, Solicitor
A reception was held by Mishcon de Reys at their offices at 21 Southampton Row in honour of Dr L. Solymon, the President of the Constitutional Court of Hungary, on Friday, September 18, 1992. Among those present were the Ambassador and Consul General of Hungary, His Honour Enoch Dumbalska, Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, Lord Mishcon, QC, Mr Anthony Lester, QC, Mr Anthony Colman, QC, Ms Nuala Mole, Director of Interights, Ms Blanche Lucas, Mr Thomas Salomon and Dr G. Baras, of the British Hungarian Law Association.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Mr Martin Goff was the guest speaker at the opening meeting of the autumn session of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held yesterday at Overseas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Dinner

National Sporting Club
Mr Tom Gravney was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the National Sporting Club last night at the Café Royal to mark his birthday (June 16).
Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided. Sir Colin Cowdrey, Mr Tim Rice and Mr Michael Parkinson also spoke.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On September 21st, to the wife of Mr. J. Adams, a son, James John, a brother for Jeremy.
BIDWELL - On September 21st, to the wife of Mr. J. Bidwell, a daughter, Hannah, a daughter for Hannah.
CHILVERS - On September 18th, to the wife of Mr. J. Chilvers, a daughter, Charlotte, a daughter for Charlotte.
HALLS - On September 18th, to the wife of Mr. J. Halls, a son, James, a son for James.
DAVIDSON - On September 18th, to the wife of Mr. J. Davidson, a son, James, a son for James.

DEATHS

ATKINSON - On September 19th 1992, suddenly at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Atkinson, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
CLUTTERBUCK - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Clutterbuck, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
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EVANS - On September 19th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Evans, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
HOPKINS - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Hopkins, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
LEWIS - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Lewis, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.

DEATHS

ROBERTS - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Roberts, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
SMITH - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Smith, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.
WILLIAMS - On September 18th 1992, at the age of 87 years, Mr. J. Williams, of 15, St. James's Place, London, W1, died. Buried at St. James's Church, London, W1, on September 21st 1992.

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Forthcoming marriages

OBITUARIES

INGE HENDERSON

Inge Henderson, a teacher of the Alexander Technique to performing artists, died on September 4 in London aged 72. She was born in Austria on March 6, 1920.

INGE Henderson, teacher of the Alexander Technique, a system of body awareness that helps people, particularly performing artists, to give of their best, advised many great names during her career. Born in Innsbruck, she was the second daughter of Baron Frederick von Schee, of a distinguished, ennobled Jewish family. Her mother was Anna Schindler, a well-known actress at Vienna's Burgtheater and a cousin of Alma Mahler. Her childhood was spent amid Vienna's cultural purple, the house full of artists of all sorts, especially musicians. Early in the 1930s her mother decided to emigrate, eventually settling in England, the lure being its "progressive" schools. At 13, Inge, already polyglot in Italian, French and, of course, her native



German, was soon to acquire a remarkable command of idiomatic English.

Initially trained as a dietitian, she was later to read medicine at Oxford. By then, she had married Bill Henderson, an architect, who was posted to the Middle East for

much of the second world war. Subsequently, she turned seriously to singing, having lessons here and there, when it became possible again, in Vienna.

Her experiences as an aspirant soprano led her to study the Alexander Technique, a psycho-physical method of controlling posture and the correct use of the body. Initially a pupil of Dr Wilfred Barlow, she decided to become a teacher herself, instructed by his wife, Marjorie, niece of the technique's founding father, F.M. Alexander. This became her life's work. After her marriage broke up in 1963, she concentrated wholly upon Alexanderianism. She was loosely connected with the Barlows for the rest of her career and introduced the technique in particular to performing artists, especially musicians.

Her list of pupils read like a roll-call of the great and good. The appointment of Alexander teachers to the Royal College and Royal Academy of Music and to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art could, at least partly, be ascribed to her example, and to her understanding of the pressures and stresses to which artists, young and old, are subject.

Her Highgate home, with its Bechstein piano associated with Edwin Fischer, a family friend, was much visited by musicians from the Continent, and was often used as a rehearsal studio. In later years, she travelled extensively, and was often to be found in a tent at the Barga Summer School of Opera in Tuscany. Later, she took under her wing the choral scholars of King's College, Cambridge, and the music scholars of Eton.

Strikingly handsome, with a personality to match, charismatic and commanding, Inge Henderson collected people, children as well as adults. Though not a woman to trifle with, her heart was big, quite unfazed by pretension and empty convention.

She is survived by her daughters, Tessa and Kathy.

Henry Galton Darwin, CMG, a leading member of the London conference on Yugoslavia, died on September 17 aged 62. He was born on November 6, 1929.

WHEN Lord Carrington was looking for an international lawyer to join his European peace mission to Yugoslavia, the name of Henry Darwin topped the list. He was tailor-made, it was said, for the task ahead. Darwin had not long retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as second (in effect the deputy) legal adviser, after a distinguished career in Whitehall. He had served at the United Nations and in Bonn and was an experienced international negotiator. After being present at the birth of the law of the sea conference, he had worked for the European Commission secretariat in Brussels at a formative time in the development of European external policy. He had also contributed to an important report on the peaceful settlement of international disputes in 1966 and to another on frontier issues four years later.

Not only that, but Darwin was fascinated by both European history and maps (which together seemed to sum up the Balkan problem) and was a gifted linguist and philologist. Shortly after being plucked from retirement to join Lord Carrington, he was seen to emerge triumphantly from a bookshop clutching a volume entitled *Serbo-Croat at Your Fingertips*.

Darwin was to become a valuable member of the peace process, both under Lord Carrington and more recently Lord Owen. He became a chairman of one of the conference's working groups, that dealing with the succession of states' rights and obligations — a crucial issue when larger countries are split up. The subject was among those on which he was an authority and he was able to draw on a

HENRY DARWIN



wealth of knowledge and experience.

Darwin, who made two visits to Yugoslavia, including one (dressed in a black jacket) to Sarajevo, was under no illusions about the complexities. But he never gave up hope of a peaceful agreed solution. Few knew more about how to achieve this than he did.

Henry Darwin was born in Edinburgh, a great-grandson of the author of *Origin of the Species*; his father, Sir Charles Darwin, FRS, was an almost equally distinguished Cambridge scientist who had worked with Rutherford on splitting the atom, had been at one time master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and had ended up running the National Physical Laboratory in London.

Young Henry was the first non-scientist in the family. He went to Marlborough, from where he won a classics scholarship to Trinity, Cambridge, (the family college) after national service in West Africa with the West Kent Regiment. He passed with first class honours after 12 months, but then switched to law in which he had to be content with a lower second. A Cambridge contemporary and subsequent life-long friend was Douglas Hurd, the present foreign secretary.

Darwin practised briefly after being called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, but was so passionately fond of travel that he found a conventional lawyer's life too restrictive. Applying to the Foreign Office, he therefore joined as an assistant legal adviser in 1954.

He served at the British Embassy in Bonn, 1960-63, trying to work out restitution issues left over from the second world war and compensation claims involving British troops in West Germany. Then, after four more years in London, he was posted, at a month's notice, as legal counsellor to the UK mission at the UN in New York.

Three years after his return came another foreign posting, this time to Brussels as a director-general in the EC secretariat legal services. Britain had just been admitted to the Community and Darwin was one of those seconded to help fill the country's quota of EC appointments.

He spent the rest of his career, from 1976 onwards, in Whitehall, becoming second legal adviser in 1984 and retiring on reaching 60 five years later. He had to overcome the disappointment of missing the headship of his department. But he found solace in teaching the juniors coming up after him. He had a fine reputation as an instructor.

He contributed to both the *British Year Book of International Law* and the *American Journal of International Law* and had been planning to write his own book before collapsing while at work in the Foreign Office.

Fair-haired and 6ft 5ins tall, reticent, good humoured and kind, Henry Darwin was sometimes described as the archetypal Englishman. He loved poetry, especially Gerard Manly Hopkins, and music — particularly Mozart. He once said that if he was ever down to his last £100 he would spend it on a ticket to Glyndebourne. But his greatest pleasure of all came from his family.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, whom he married in 1958, and by three daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Fransis Payne

READING the obituary notice of Fransis Payne (September 14) took me back to the late 1920s when one summer's evening a young man appeared at the door of my late father's vicarage at Llanllwch near Carmarthen.

This young fellow was none other than Fransis Payne, who had ridden his bicycle loaded with all his worldly goods, including many books, in two panniers. He had travelled from a parish in Cardiganshire, where he had been employed as a farm worker, bearing a letter to my father from the incumbent of his parish.

We offered him hospitality which he declined, preferring to bivouac in the vicarage grounds.

My father, Fransis and myself had long discussions well into the nights that fol-

lowed and he amazed us by his knowledge of Welsh history, which was self-taught, and at the same time he was learning Latin and Greek.

A job happened to be going at Spurrells, the printers at Carmarthen, for a proof reader revising a Welsh-English dictionary. My father saw great potential in this young man and, as he was friendly with Spurrell, Fransis was offered the work. Later, as autumn approached, he moved into an attic room at the printing works.

A year or so afterwards, a well-known antiquarian, one George Eyre Evans, offered him the post of curator of the Carmarthen museum where he catalogued the items. Here he had time to study Welsh folklore and the Welsh classics, preparing himself for Cardiff.

Kebble Thomas

Lt-Cdr Dennis Copperwheat

DENNIS Copperwheat (obituary, September 14) joined HMS *Indomitable* in the middle of 1951. It was a ship's company led by officers who had made their mark in the war: Vian, the last man to hoist the Union Flag whilst a seagoing commander-in-chief, the heroic captain, Manley Power and many others. It was not, however, a particularly happy ship because of the preponderance of unwilling sailors recalled to duty as a result of the Korean War.

Amongst this illustrious company, after more than 40 years I well remember the impact that the arrival of Lt-Cdr Copperwheat made on the lower deck. We were soon



aware of his humanity, leadership, cheerfulness and camaraderie. A shipmate to remember with gratitude and affection.

B. R. Outhwaite

Christopher Trace

IN FAIRNESS to the memory of Christopher Trace (obituary, September 9) and for the sake of his family and friends, could I nail once and for all the myth that Chris left *Blue Peter* because the BBC was concerned about his marital problems?

During the summer of 1967 Chris was asked to join a feature film company as writer, assistant director and production manager. After nearly nine years as a television

presenter this seemed an exciting development and an offer he felt he could not refuse.

He certainly did not leave under any kind of a cloud. Indeed, BBC Television's controller of programmes at that time was convinced *Blue Peter* would flourish without him. In fact, it was the film company that collapsed, leaving Chris jobless and minus his life savings — a tragedy from which he never fully recovered.

Biddy Baxter
Editor, *Blue Peter*
1962-68.

Dai Vernon

DAI Vernon (obituary, August 31) performed stage magic, but his own love was close-up magic, especially close-up card magic. The world of card magic is a small world, but in that world Dai was not only a genius, but the cause of genius in others.

Wherever he lived, New York, California or London, would become the centre of creativity in card magic.

Small worlds often contain

big egos; but Dai never seemed interested in the reputation of Dai Vernon — he was much too interested in magic.

Dai produced the best when required, but he would let his hair down — he would fumble and curse through some half-remembered trick in order to illustrate a point to a beginner. It was this infectious and unselfish enthusiasm that made him not only admired, but loved.

Alexander Elmsley

ADEL ROOTSTEIN

Adel Rootstein, who created the modern shop window mannequin, died on September 20 aged 62. She was born in Warmbaths, South Africa, in 1930.

THE HAND of Adel Rootstein can be seen in department store windows everywhere. Her achievement was to create a new generation of lifelike display mannequins, an important development for the fashion business and for the popular street-theatre of the shop window display.

Adel Rootstein used to say she came from a long line of Jewish refugees. She was born in the small South African spa town of Warmbaths, where her Russian parents had a small hotel, and came to London at 21. She got a job as a window-dresser in Aquascutum. Two years later she married her boss, Rick Hopkins, and started a small business in a basement in Earls Court making display department props.

It was the early 1960s and the haughty, warwork display mannequins of the day were out of step with the lively new fashions. So Adel Rootstein produced a new one, a mannequin modelled on Twiggy, skinny, coltish and flat chested. At last the fashion trade had a display mannequin that could wear a miniskirt with conviction. The Twiggy mannequin was a huge success and the reigning mannequins were doomed. They had broken the one rule that mattered in their world. They had



come out of date. Adel Rootstein's path was now clearly marked. She would make realistic mannequins modelled from life.

So the beautiful people of the day started peopling the shop windows — Sandy Shaw, Joanna Lumley, Janet Suzman, Joan Collins, Patti Harrison and Susan Hampshire, as well as modish young women from London society, Lady Caroline Percy, Lady Mary-Gaye Curzon, Lady Jacqueline Rufus Isaacs. The Duke of Northumberland did not object to his daughter Lady Caroline, taking up this unexpected line of work but asked her not to use her title.

New male mannequins were needed, too, so Patrick Lichfield, Simon Ward and Jeremy Brett found their replicas glowing at them through the plate-glass too. Adel Rootstein, diffident but persuasive, broke new ground in other directions. She claimed



Joan Collins, the actress, modelling for the mannequins made by Adel Rootstein in her likeness

to have made the first high fashion black mannequin and, a little later, the first oriental mannequin.

The figures were modelled from life and then cast in fibreglass. Wig-makers, make-up artists added the finishing touches and the final effect was eerily realistic. Rootstein's mannequins had navels and nipples and she paid particular attention to

body language. The figures stood, sat and lounged about as if leading an intense life of their own.

Her husband joined her at an early stage and before long they had factories, offices and showrooms in London and New York and agents all over the world. Adel Rootstein claimed to have 20 per cent of the world market.

She and her husband

owned the business entirely until this year when they sold it to Yoshichu Mannequins of Japan, a company that had been making Rootstein mannequins under licence for some years. Part of the contract was that the business should continue as before. The new owners accepted that Rootstein was no longer playing an active role.

What she was doing, in-

stead, was fulfilling a lifelong ambition. She had left school at 14 and had always regretted her lack of a formal education. At 40, a successful businesswoman, she had gone to night school to take O and A levels. Then, four years ago at 58, a petite, shy woman in a 1960s bob, she enrolled at the Slade School of Fine Art. She took her final degree in June.

Latest wills

Mr Graham Stephen Paul Gaden, of Westminster, stock broker with Cazenove and Company, left estate valued at £5,830,061 net. He left a charitable trust worth £648,000 and the remainder of the estate mostly to relatives.

Catherine Hilda Cole, of Edgware, north London, left estate valued at £1,300,800 net. She left the entire amount equally between the League of Friends of Edgware General Hospital, and the League of Friends of the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, for the purchase of coaches, and St John Ambulance, to buy ambulances.

Sir Percival Joseph Griffiths, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, author and former Indian civil servant, left estate valued at £425,612 net.

Miss Margaret Pamela Goff, of Lower Basildon, Berkshire, left estate valued at £567,157 net. She left her mother and the residue equally between the Jockey Club Charitable Trust and the Racing Welfare Fund.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Geoffrey Williams, of Chippingham, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £637,509 net.

Mrs Edith Mary Peck, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £852,368 net.

Sale room

Day the duke lost his hippo

By JOHN SHAW

1973, which has recently been refaced in local pink sandstone to resemble a medium-sized French chateau.

The top price of the day was £18,700 for a George IV mahogany six-poster state bed in Gothic style by William Porden which was bought by an American (pre-sale estimate £10,000-£15,000). The bed was purchased on behalf of the Gerald Arthur Rolph Foundation of New York and will be going to Albion Park, near Knareborough, North Yorkshire, one of the most important Gothic Revival houses in Britain.

A white and inlaid marble chimney-piece carved with a relief of Diana the Huntress and her hounds went for £23,650 (pre-sale estimate £15,000 to £25,000). Twenty-two leaded and stained glass panels, some decorated with the Grosvenor arms, made £12,650 (estimate £1,000-£2,000).

The sale was estimated to make between £100,000 and £150,000 but totalled £203,166.

The Korthaus collection of rare Meissen porcelain, formed between the late 1940s and 1968 by a German couple took the honours in a £775,148 sale at Christie's.

The 68-lot collection covered Meissen from its earliest production in about 1710 to its great refinements of 1750 and was expected to fetch about £500,000. It made £613,910 in competitive bidding with only 19 items left unsold. Early white wares were in demand and a Bonner flared beak-ware vase from 1718 made £49,500 (£10,000-£18,000). A chinoiserie table-bell and stand from 1730 made the top price of £77,000 (£40,000 to £50,000). It was one of only a few of its kind to have survived intact.

A George Medal awarded to James Clark for heroism during the rescue of victims from the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster in July 1988 sold for £4,950 at Phillips in London. It was bought by the arts and recreation division of Aberdeen City Council.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of Henry VIII, 1515; Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, statesman and writer, London, 1694; Michael Faraday, chemist, London, 1791; Dame Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, director, Vienna, 1885; Paul Muni, actor, Lemberg, Austria, 1895.

DEATHS: Johann Agricola, Lutheran reformer, Berlin, 1566; Ivan Vazov, poet, Sofia, 1921; Sir Charles Sandley, baritone, London, 1922; Frederick Soddy, chemist, Nobel laureate 1921, Brighton, 1956; Oliver St John Gogarty, surgeon and writer, New York, 1957; Irving Berlin, song writer, 1989.

The coronation of George III, 1761. Proclamation of the French Republic, 1792. 265 miners lost their lives in the Gresford pit (near Wrexham) disaster, 1934.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Michael Rodney Barr to be a circuit judge, assigned to the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Mrs Corinne Bennett to be the new English Heritage Cathedrals Architect, from November 1. Mrs Bennett, senior partner with Purcell Miller Tritton and Partners in Winchester, will deal with applications made under the cathedrals grant scheme and the care of cathedrals museum.

Professor Gillian Beer, Professor of English at Cambridge University, to be a trustee of the British Museum.

Mr Paul Judge, Professor Vicki Bruce, Mr Bill Daniel, Mr Norman Glass, Dr Jeremy Harrison to be members of the Economic and Social Research Council.

Church news

Church in Wales
Diocese of St Asaph
The Rev Charles Ian Day, Vicar of Minera, has been nominated as Vicar of Mold.

The Rev Dr John Richard Guy, non-stipendiary priest, diocese of Bath and Wells, has been nominated as Incumbent of Betws Cedewain, Tregynon and Llanyddelan.

Gun deck netted

Fishermen have trawled up a section of gun deck and ammunition believed to be from a seventeenth or eighteenth century warship off Dunwich, Suffolk.

Molyneux makes history with talks in Dublin

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JAMES Molyneux yesterday became the first Unionist leader in 70 years to negotiate in Dublin with Irish ministers about the future of Northern Ireland.

The leader of the Ulster Unionist Party had more than four hours of talks with government ministers, in the latest round of negotiations on the future of the province. The talks concentrated on the obstacles to building new relationships between the north and south, with Unionists demanding that the Republic should change its constitution, which claims territorial jurisdiction over the province.

Mr Molyneux made no comment when he left Dublin Castle last night after his historic meeting with John Wilson, the deputy prime minister, and David Andrews, the foreign minister.

The discussions, which were also attended by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the secretary of state for Northern Ireland, and by representatives of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Alliance party, were described as "brisk and businesslike".

Padraig Flynn, the Republic's minister for justice, said that the negotiating process had been enhanced by the talks. He said: "Every day's business helps the process along and every day new things are said and new ideas are put forward."

Although the Democratic Unionist Party, led by Ian Paisley, boycotted the meetings, the Dublin government said the discussions had been "very positive". Mr Andrews said: "I would like to think that every day progress is being made. I would think that happiness abounds in Dublin Castle."

Before the talks began, Mr Andrews had said: "It is a historic day by any standards but we don't want to be emphasising the historical nature of it because we have to take account of the sensitivities of the other participants, and particularly the Unionists, in coming here." Mr Molyneux had flown to Dublin in a plane chartered by the British government. He ignored shouts from the media and walked into the building with other members of his delegation. Inside the castle Mr Molyneux joined British and Irish ministers and representatives of the Alliance party and the SDLP at the start of three days of discussions. The plenary session was held in George's Hall, and the Ulster Unionist delegation sat between British ministers and Sir Ninian Stephen, the chairman of the talks.

Outside the castle there was a small demonstration warning the Irish government against any attempt to remove the territorial claim from the constitution.

Two die in chemical plant blast

Continued from page 1
number of agricultural products, including fertiliser, and photographic products.

Dr Fyfe said: "Thank God it was lunchtime. At this stage we have no idea what went wrong. It was a routine maintenance operation that has been carried out countless times in the past."

The explosion destroyed a prefabricated building used as an office and started fires in a four-storey office block 150 yards away. Flames rose more than 250ft into the air, and a pall of smoke started to drift towards the town.

Sheila Malanzak, whose home overlooks the plant, said: "There was a huge bang. It sounded like a supersonic jet. I raced outside to see debris being hurled into neighbouring fields. It must have been thrown more than a quarter of a mile."



Pop ballet: principal dancers Olga Kulko and Victor Blinnikov model new Bolshoi Theatre T-shirts which will play a part in an international promotion organised by a Scottish company, Sporting Partnerships UK

Major attempts to defuse revolt over Maastricht

Continued from page 1
time the prime minister sought to dampen the enthusiasm of the Euro-sceptics for the decision to float the pound. It was no "panacea" and the battle against inflation would be tough.

Mr Lamont, who returned from the IMF meeting last night, will set out the framework of the government's new approach to tackling inflation on Thursday in the Commons debate on the economy. This is expected to include a higher profile for the kind of monetary targets used until the mid-1980s.

Three items will dominate the special EC summit, which will be held in London, probably in mid-October: reform of the ERM, Denmark's objections to the treaty and the need to respond to popular fears about the direction of the EC. Mr Major, who spent 20 minutes discussing the French vote with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, yesterday, plans meetings with several EC leaders before the emergency summit.

Herr Kohl and President Mitterrand will try to inject new momentum into the Community today when they meet in Paris to examine the aftermath of the French vote and the monetary crisis. Their action will not amount to any renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty or undercutting other member states but will be directed at making Community institutions more answerable to the people. Elysee Palace sources said, they could also seek to give sharper definition to the principle of subsidiarity, and set out plans for opening the community to new membership.

Herr Kohl and M Mitterrand agreed on the meeting in a telephone call yesterday. The Elysee said M Mitterrand was acutely aware that the result showed the electorate believed the community had grown beyond democratic control. The Elysee also made it known that M Mitterrand had taken note of opinion polls showing that most voters did not want him to call elections or resign ahead of the official timetable.

Herr Kohl is facing a growing all-party lobby that is demanding that the German parliament be given the power to opt out of European monetary union. While Herr Kohl wants urgently to press on with ratification of the treaty, support is gathering for those who want to slow down the

planned introduction of EMU by the end of the century.

In New York the European Commission president Jacques Delors said any attempt to rewrite the Maastricht treaty would open up a "Pandora's box". Addressing reporters just before a meeting of European foreign ministers, M Delors said the question of whether Britain should also have a referendum "is the business of the British people".

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said in New York last night: "Maastricht is not for renegotiation. The process of ratification must follow all the deadlines previously envisaged. The French referendum does not have to hamper the process."

Full analysis, pages 2-3
Nicholas Ridley, page 12
Woodrow Wyatt, page 12
Leading articles and letters, page 13
Stock market, page 20
Business Comment, page 21
Fresh start, page 21

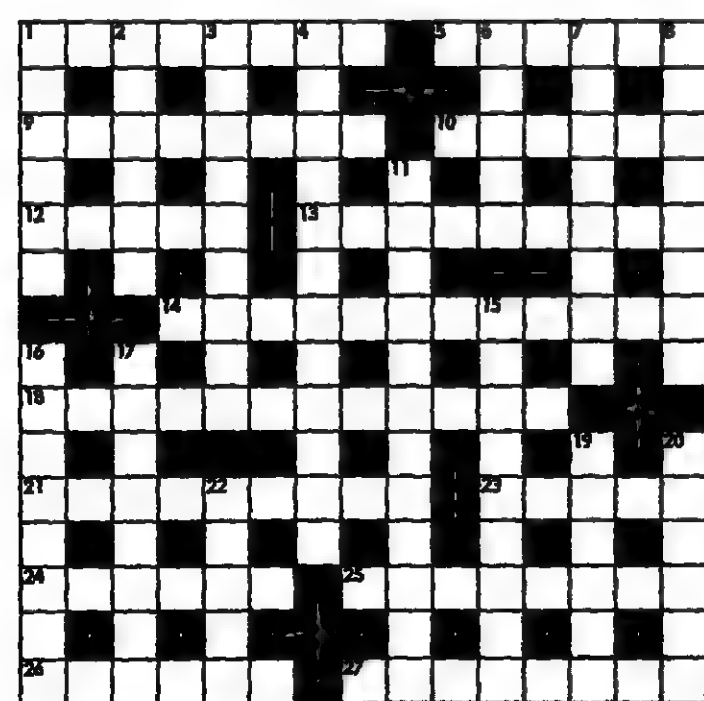
Bright side of Lamont

Continued from page 1
policy-making without the straitjacket of the ERM. Even the British remarks about Germany had lost their sting. Even Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, no longer seemed to be viewed as a saboteur and oppressor, but perhaps as a friendly liberator.

Certainly there were no signs of regret from Mr Lamont himself about leaving the ERM and allegedly being cast into the slow lane of a "two-speed Europe". A journalist asked the Chancellor if Britain would now be left behind in a two-speed Europe. "Our policy is nothing to do with two tiers or two speeds," Mr Lamont replied. "The fundamentals are what matter. What matters is having sound finance, low inflation and good growth. That has nothing to do with ERMs and currency targets."

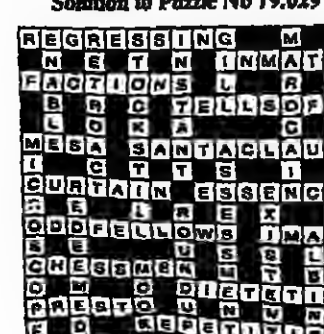
He might have added, but did not, that another thing which matters is getting base rates down to 8 per cent by the time he speaks to the Tory conference on October 8.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,030



- ACROSS**
- Extremely clever, but hateful (8).
 - "Respectable Professors of the Science" (Cavill) (6).
 - Bull-headed chap, a youngster without character in Crete (8).
 - Minister in the Magic Circle (6).
 - The way to ventilate this sort of case (5).
 - One arriving in good time for breakfast (5,4).
 - Foul-mouthed women's crew, lighter than a feather (12).
 - Ram alcohol into the sweet (12).
 - Harris, George and I guiding the ship of state? (9).
 - Tree indicates start of Christmas in the neighbourhood (5).
 - Ruth, starting at university, becomes snobbish (6).
- DOWN**
- It takes about a minute, he believes, to clean the windscreen (6).
 - Instruction book for organ keyboard (6).
 - Tea cartel involved in dispute (9).
 - Tennyson's joint office (12).
 - Bathing place needs filling (5).
 - One in a temper gets hurt first in a match (8).
 - Song by a dweller near the springs of Dove is heard with clarity (8).
 - One getting up from a well-sprung mattress (12).
 - Wizard bagpipe player bears an English name (9).
 - Bad habit one puts up with inside is intolerable (1,3,4).
 - Cabaret artiste becoming thinner (8).
 - Vehicle needing a lot of bodywork? (6).
 - Bait badger (6).
 - Use timer switch to cut corners (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,029



Concise Crossword, page 7
Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- CANTLE**
- Between a center and a trot
 - A segment or section
 - To argue passionately

FOISON

- Abundance
- A curious weed
- Maliciousness

GALINGALE

- An abandoned woman
- An atmospheric root
- An old piece of harness

GLEEK

- An early golf club
- To jest
- A violent thin disease

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE M25, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0871 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Devon & Cornwall 703
Dorset & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire 705
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire 706
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex 707
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire 708
West Midlands & Cheshire 709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcester 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincolnshire & Humberside 713
Yorkshire & the East 714
Yorkshire & the West 715
N.W. England 716
W. & S. Wales & Wales 717
N. Ireland 718
Scotland & Lake District 719
S.W. Scotland 720
W. Scotland 721
E. Scotland 722
E. & N. Scotland 723
N.W. Scotland 724
Cumbria, Lancashire & Yorkshire 725
N. Ireland 726

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Ireland and north-west Scotland will become brighter after a cloudy start with scattered showers. Eastern Scotland will have some heavy rain, but brighter weather will come from the west, although not reaching the Northern Isles until late. A dull start in England and Wales, with showers, heavy and prolonged at times and perhaps thunder in the east. The wind will be fresh in the north. Outlook unsettled with rain.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	28/20	W	100	
Amman	27/18	W	100	
Athens	27/18	W	100	
Bangkok	32/20	W	100	
Beijing	27/18	W	100	
Bombay	28/20	W	100	
Buenos Aires	27/18	W	100	
Calcutta	28/20	W	100	
Cairo	28/20	W	100	
Chongqing	27/18	W	100	
Copenhagen	18/10	W	100	
Dakar	28/20	W	100	
Dhaka	28/20	W	100	
Hong Kong	28/20	W	100	
London	18/10	W	100	
Los Angeles	28/20	W	100	
Manila	28/20	W	100	
Medan	28/20	W	100	
Mumbai	28/20	W	100	
Nairobi	28/20	W	100	
Seoul	28/20	W	100	
Singapore	28/20	W	100	
Taipei	28/20	W	100	
Tokyo	28/20	W	100	
Yokohama	28/20	W	100	

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 15C (59F). Humidity, 60%, 77 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6pm, 0.2in. Sun, 24hr to 6pm, 0.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 1007.8 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.92in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

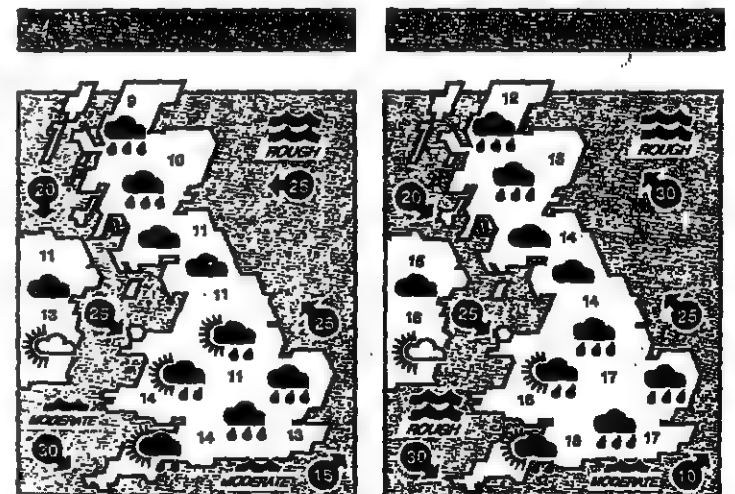
Sunday: Highest day temp, Poole, Dorset, 22C (72F). Lowest day temp, Cape Wrath, Highland, 11C (52F). Highest rainfall, Mumbles, near Swansea, 1.1in; highest sunshine, Folkestone, Kent, 8.5hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 14C (57F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F). Rain, 24hr to 6pm, 0.12in. Sun, 24hr to 6pm, 0.2hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Rain, 24hr to 6pm, 0.1in. Sun, 24hr to 6pm, 0.2hr.



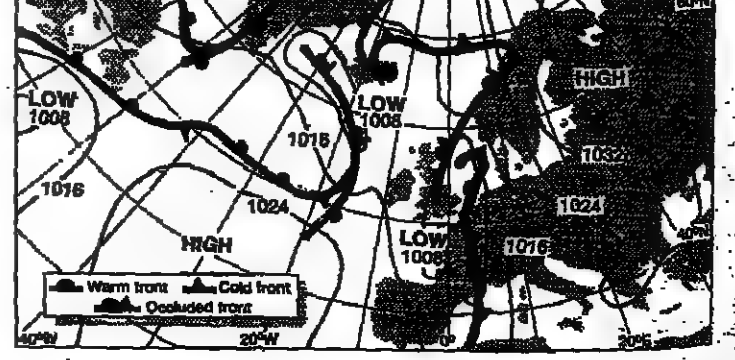
London 6.50 pm to 8.40 am
Belfast 1.00 pm to 3.50 am
Edinburgh 7.11 pm to 7.00 am
Manchester 7.07 pm to 8.57 am
Preston 7.20 pm to 7.10 am

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	10/12	W	100	
Birmingham	14/17	W	100	
Bristol	15/18	W	100	
Cardiff	15/18	W	100	
Edinburgh	10/12	W	100	
Glasgow	11/12	W	100	

Sun rises: 6.47 am
Sun sets: 6.50 pm
Moon rises: 4.47 pm
New Moon September 28

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10/12	W	100	
London Bridge	10/12	W	100	
Aberdeen	10/12	W	100	
Aberdeen	10/12	W	100	
Avonmouth	10/12	W	100	
Belfast	10/12	W	100	
Birmingham	14/17	W	100	
Bristol	15/18	W	100	
Cardiff	15/18	W	100	
Edinburgh	10/12	W	100	
Glasgow	11/12	W	100	
London	10/12	W	100	
Manchester	10/12	W	100	
Medan	10/12	W	100	
Mumbai	10/12	W	100	
Nairobi	10/12	W	100	
Seoul	10/12	W	100	
Singapore	10/12	W	100	
Taipei	10/12	W	100	
Tokyo	10/12	W	100	
Yokohama	10/12	W	100	

Tide in metres: 1m = 3.28084



Information supplied by Met Office

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● LAW TIMES 27-29

BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
30-34

Currency markets still in turmoil

Pound slumps to record closing low

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound plumed new depths, despite a generally calmer mood, as currency dealers sought direction from France's narrow approval of the Maastricht treaty and a confusing spate of comments from finance ministers and central bankers.

The London stock market was 44 points ahead by 10am in expectation of an imminent base rates cut. But the Bank of England signalled no change, pricking the bubble. The FTSE 100 closed at 2,560.1, down 6.9. In the money market, the key three-month interbank rate softened to 9 per cent, a point below current base rates.

The French vote failed to

free the franc, the Danish crown and Irish punt from the pressure that built up within the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) after Britain and Italy pulled out of the parity grid last week.

In late trading, the punt, hurt by sterling's tumble, was quoted over two and half pence below its absolute ERM floor of DM2.6190, despite intervention. The lira remained under pressure and will not re-enter the ERM today, as originally planned. The franc touched 3.423 to the mark, close to its ERM floor of 3.4305. But supportive comments from Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, plus intervention by the Bank of France, averted

any serious threat to the franc, which currency analysts now expect to escape devaluation.

With expectations of large cuts in base rates undiminished, sterling had no support. It dropped to DM2.5456 at the official 4pm London close. This record closing low represented a fall of almost six and half pence since Friday and one of almost a penny and a quarter since yesterday's opening.

Against an overall softer dollar, the pound lost ground, closing at DM1.7125, down almost a cent from the opening and more than 3 cents below Friday. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell to 83.5 at 11pm, its lowest since the index was rebased in 1989. It closed at 83.6, down 1.9 point since Friday.

Avinesh Persaud, currency analyst at UBS-Phillips & Drew, said the market was now convinced that Britain will not be re-entering the ERM for the next 12 months at least, which is likely to cause the pound to overshoot on the downside. He expects it to be below DM2.50 by the end of this year, but some analysts foresee as low as DM2.20.

Herr Schlesinger's remarks on interest rate policy, which included reassurance that the Bundesbank was sticking to medium-term price stability, provided no clear guidance as to when German interest rates would be lowered.

In remarks that appeared directed at Britain, Herr Schlesinger said that the ERM does not need reform, as long as participants refrain from holding unfair expectations of their partners, including lowering interest rates.

The Dutch and Belgian central banks shaved their key lending rates slightly yesterday, reflecting reduced tension in the wake of the French referendum. Non-ERM Sweden also lowered its marginal lending rate to 50 per cent from the draconian 500 per cent imposed last week to defend the crown.

Bundesbank chief backs the franc

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

HELMUT Schlesinger, the president of the Bundesbank, lent his endorsement yesterday to a concerted effort to rally support for the franc after the narrow Yes vote in France's referendum.

Speaking in Washington as currency traders reported heavy selling of the French currency against the mark, Herr Schlesinger said that the franc was not at present "particularly strong" but that it remained a "healthy and stable currency". He added that he saw "no great tensions" in the exchange-rate mechanism. The realignments and departures from the system last week had considerably reduced the pressures on the ERM, he added.

Herr Schlesinger's public support for the franc, which stood in contrast to the Bundesbank's frequently expressed scepticism about the pound and lira, was explained by German bank officials as a matter of economics, not politics.

The franc could not be described as unstable or overvalued against the mark, said one, since France had a current account surplus and lower inflation than Germany.

The Bundesbank's soothing comments about the franc reinforced upbeat statements in Washington by numerous European finance ministers, while the International Monetary Fund's policy-making interim committee called on members to "improve the balance" between their monetary and fiscal policies to facilitate a narrowing of interest rate differentials across the Atlantic. This appeared to be directed primarily at Germany.

Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, said that America should begin to increase its rates as soon as its economic recovery was firmly under way. His comment was dismissed by American officials as unrealistic and irrelevant.

IoD urges 8% interest rates

By PATRICIA TERAN

BRITAIN'S bosses are urging Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to cut interest rates to 8 per cent, blaming his failure to do so for the continued instability of sterling in the world currency markets.

Dr Ann Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, said that the overriding priority was for the government to establish an economic policy. "It is important that the government takes firm action to show that it has an economic policy to get the British economy moving again."

She said the government has already left it "a bit late", saying interest rates should have been cut last week when Mr Lamont pulled the pound out of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Dr Robinson said: "The government has to have an economic policy. It is relying on the prop of the ERM, now it is on its own."

She added: "Business needs to see that the government has some policies."

Dr Robinson said the government needs to show it has a

real grip on current government spending and to make it clear that high pay demands from teachers and other public sector employees are "totally unacceptable".

The Institute of Directors is also calling for an independent Bank of England.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said Britain is now "the sick man of Europe, with a rudderless government and a shattered economic base." He called for

an emergency summit for trade unions, employers and the government to tackle rising unemployment.

The Transport and General Workers Union's executive committee has produced a five-point recovery plan, including a cut in interest rates. Increased spending on transport and investment in housing and construction.

Following a meeting yesterday, the Transport and General Workers Union's executive said: "The chaotic events of last week have left Britain with a government without an economic policy in the middle of the deepest recession in 60 years. The industrial base of our economy has been shattered in pursuit of an economic strategy which has now been abandoned."

Major's response, page 1
Poll analysis, pages 2-3
Nicholas Ridley, page 12
Woodrow Wyatt, page 12
Leading articles, page 13
Letters, page 13
Stock market, page 20
Comment, page 21
Fresh start, page 21



Robinson: need for action

When money can't buy you money

By JON ASHWORTH

TOURISTS unlucky enough to have to visit a foreign exchange counter in the past few days will be relieved to learn that the financial world is returning to normal... slowly. But anyone travelling to Italy, Spain or France may find special measures are called for.

For the first time since bedlam broke out in the currency markets last Wednesday, tourist rates are being widely published once more. Yet with the markets the way they are, rates may be out of date by the time they are published in the morning newspapers.

Barclays Bank, which provides *The Times* with a daily guide to tourist rates, provided some quotations on popular currencies yesterday for the first time in nearly a week. But the bank insisted on a "risk warning" that rates could change

dramatically overnight. Barclays normally issues rates at 2.30 pm for publication the following morning. But the volatile trading conditions of the past few days have thrown the system into disarray.

A Barclays spokeswoman said: "Because rates are so volatile, we have not been setting them until 7.30 in the morning. We will go back to normal when things calm down."

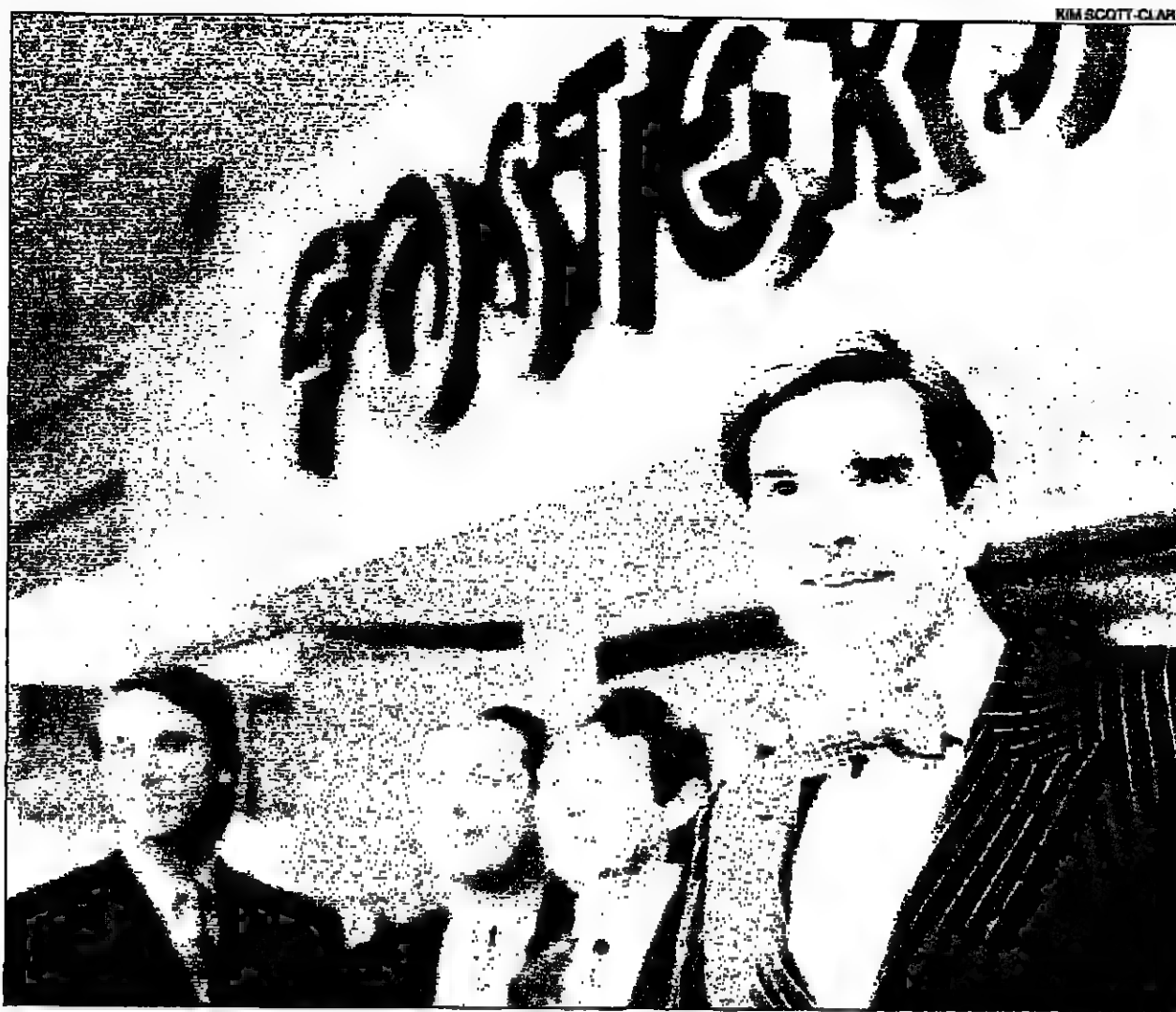
One reader who called Barclays yesterday morning, wishing to change American dollars into French francs, was told he would not be able to do so. Barclays said: "That should not have happened; it isn't the case. We should be able to offer a full currency service like normal." However, Barclays is advising customers travelling to Italy, Spain or France to take local currency rather than travellers' cheques due to the volatile conditions. Lloyds Bank issued its rates for the day

at 9.40 am yesterday, ten minutes late, but said there were no reported problems with customers wishing to change currency. National Westminster Bank reported no problems.

Some of the wildest currency swings were experienced on Thursday. Thomas Cook, the travel group, displayed rates throughout the day in its 334 branches but could only offer "rates on request" for the franc and lira due to the speed with which the market was moving.

Thomas Cook provides a fixed daily rate to Midland Bank Alliance & Leicester and other building societies, and has to absorb any resulting losses caused by currency swings. American Express requires customers to come into a branch before providing firm rates, but said it had not turned anyone away.

Tourist rates, page 16



Value for money aim: David Carter Johnson, right, with his buyout team, who will concentrate on casualwear

Virgin and Dan-Air deny talk of merger

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

VIRGIN Atlantic and Dan-Air yesterday denied that they were in talks about a possible merger.

A spokesman for Richard Branson's airline said: "There has been no discussion between Virgin and Dan-Air. Newman with regard to a merger of the two airlines, nor has Virgin received any proposal regarding such a merger or other equity participation."

David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, parent of Dan-Air, said the only talks he had had were "intermittent dialogues over the past two years." He added: "There are no dialogues in hand beyond such minimal levels, and certainly nothing which would justify talks of a merger."

Dan-Air is, however, pressing ahead with its attempts to find an airline, or financial institution, that would invest sufficient cash to enable the airline to continue operating its charter and scheduled services this winter and throughout next summer's peak holiday season. Those who have been approached, including British Airways, have failed to sign an agreement.

Mr James is likely to announce a pre-tax loss this year despite forecasts that the airline would make a profit.

One suggestion that was discussed with Mr Branson was that Virgin should create a short-haul European airline of its own using leased Dan-Air aircraft and slots that Dan-Air would then abandon at Heathrow and Gatwick. Mr Branson made it clear that he would not be prepared to spend much money on the venture, which he would take up only if others backed him. The scheme would have allowed Virgin to test the validity of running a short-haul service to feed passengers onto its more lucrative long-haul services.

Mr Branson applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for licences to serve Inverness, Maastricht and Athens, while holding talks with Dan-Air about a possible deal. As yet, there is no agreement.

Sears gives up menswear and sells Fosters chain

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SEARS, the Selfridges to Freeman Hardy & Willis and Saxe shoe shops group, has pulled out of menswear retailing. Its 350 Fosters and Your Price shops have been handed to their management in a deal that is actually costing Sears £40 million, and which Sears is helping to finance — it could end up with a 17.5 per cent stake in Fosters Menswear, the buyout vehicle.

Liam Strong, Sears' new chief executive, said the disposal of the menswear division was part of the group's "aggressive programme of recovery and development". He added: "The menswear business is relatively small and was not going to be an area of significant growth." In fact, it has been losing money for the past two years, running up a £9 million trading loss last year alone, on sales of £128 million, and a further £5.3 million in the first three months of this year.

The division has cost Sears

£30 million in cash outflow over the past 2½ years. Mr Strong, former BA marketing director, said: "Even if we'd got it right, we'd have had only 2 per cent of the market, and that at the bottom end. We'd rather concentrate on sectors where we have the lead."

The menswear business is being acquired by its management, led by David Carter Johnson, the managing director, and Geoffrey Taylor, former group chief executive of Midland Bank, who will be non-executive chairman. Fosters Menswear is financed by Hambro European Ventures, with 40 per cent of the equity, and Sears itself, which is subscribing for convertible preference shares. The remaining 60 per cent of the ordinary shares will be split between the board and staff.

Mr Carter Johnson said his strategy will be to "strengthen Fosters' value for money reputation", concentrating on casual wear, and getting out of

suits and sportswear. Sears owns 94 of the properties from which Fosters trades, but these, in the books at £51 million, are excluded from the deal and will be sold by Sears as part of its property disposal over the next 12-18 months.

Of the £40 million extraordinary cost, £29 million relates to asset write-offs and £11 million to trading losses and redundancy payments. A further £42 million of goodwill, written off at the time of Fosters' acquisition, in 1985, is now being written off through the profit and loss account, in accordance with new accounting guidelines, and re-credited to reserves.

Adams and Millets, both part of the Fosters group acquired for £115 million in 1985, and both market leaders, are being retained. Mr Strong denied he was contemplating selling Selfridges, the flagship central London store.

Comment, page 21

TODAY IN BUSINESS

MULTI-TIER

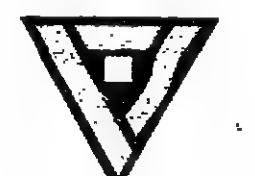


Wolfgang Münchau argues that a multi-tier system in Europe is a reality after the French yes vote and sterling's ERM suspension
Page 21

THINK SMALL

Smith New Court is extending its dealing service to cover a wider range of shares in smaller companies
Page 24

FAMILY TIME



TVS Entertainment has agreed to a £38.2 million takeover offer from International Family Entertainment
Page 19

MOVING UP

MAI, the money broking to media and information group, managed a 7 per cent rise in full-year profits
Tempos, page 20

LAW TIMES



David Pannick takes a look at the important issue of how to tackle sex discrimination in immigration law
Page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7125 (-0.0310)
German mark 2.5456 (-0.0644)
Exchange Index 83.6 (-1.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1887.8 (+2.6)
FT-SE 100 2560.1 (-6.9)
New York Dow Jones 3315.43 (-11.62)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 18066.24 (-100.56)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 9.1-9.1%
3-month Treasury Bills 8.1-8.1%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3.1-3.1%
3-month Treasury Bills 2.9-2.9%
30-year bonds 9.8-9.8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1 7120 £ \$1 7123
£ DM2 5387 £ DM1 4815
£ Sfr12 2325 £ Sfr11 3005
£ FF6 6765 £ FF5 0650
£ Yen123 07 £ Yen123 68
£ Index 83.6 £ Index 82.0
ECU 30.774539 SDR 80 817207
£ ECU1 251090 £ SDR1 223880
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: Gold
AM \$348.25 PM \$349.10
Close \$347.40-347.90
\$200 00-203.50
New York: Comex \$ 347.25-347.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Bront (Oct) \$20.20/bbl (\$20.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987-100)
* Denotes monthly trading price

CAROL LEONARD

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Debt provisions at Bristol & West cut profits by 65%

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

PROVISIONS for mortgage debt cut the profits of Bristol & West, the tenth largest building society by 65 per cent in the first half of the year.

The society reported yesterday profits of £13.1 million compared with £39.2 million in the same period last year. This is largely the result of the society quadrupling provisions from £7.2 million in the first half of last year to £29.7 million. In the year to December 1991 it had reported profits up 11 per cent despite the housing market depression.

The current figures also reflect the society's adoption of the standard way of providing for interest loss. Last year it was hidden in net interest receivable and provisions were stated as £2.9 million.

In the past the Bristol & West has made lower provisions than other societies of similar size but it denies that it underprovided in previous years. On December 30 it took over the ailing Chestnut Building Society and for the first time its provisions take account of the mortgage book



FitzSimons pessimistic

of the smaller society. The repossessed properties of the Chestnut are concentrated in the South East and reflect the poor housing market there.

Management expenses also increased by more than 10 per cent from £50.3 million to £55.6 million. Tony FitzSimons, chief executive, said this was partly the result of absorbing the Chestnut's management expenses, the

cost of its new financial centres and expanding its debt management service. He is pessimistic about the short term property market. There are 150,000 to 200,000 properties overhanging the market that must be sold before normal conditions return, he said.

Sir John Wills, chairman, said: "The board has comprehensively reviewed its requirements for provisions in accordance with current and emerging best industry practice. In the light of a continuing high level of mortgage arrears, a sharp reduction in the value of repossessed houses and future market uncertainties, provisions have been substantially increased. The society is also continuing to address the level of management expenses, the growth of which reflects mainly the consequences of earlier decisions to invest in new facilities and expand into new markets."

"It may be that there is now an opportunity for the government and the industry to address the underlying malaise in the housing market."



Bouncing back in style: Michael Harris, Helene chairman, announcing a profit rise

Helene flourishes in fashion

By MICHAEL TATE

AN ABILITY to switch its sourcing to take advantage of the best available prices enabling Helene, the clothing supplier, to overcome the economic conditions.

Turnover rose from £33.2 million to £36.7 million in the first half of 1992, was still climbing in July and August

and is encouraging boardroom hopes that it could continue to increase in the remaining months of the year.

Profit margins have improved, and pre-tax earnings, sharply down a year ago, have improved from £706,000 to £812,000. In the absence of extraordinary items, net earnings have surged 26.7 per cent to 0.71p a share. The board is

paying an unchanged interim of 0.65p a share, as forecast at the time of the June £4.58 million share issue.

The funds were raised to finance expansion. Michael Harris, the chairman, said the group's strengths were its sales and sourcing abilities, which allow it to produce throughout the world at the best possible prices.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BCCIHK starts to unfreeze deposits

THE Hong Kong arm of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International has started to send cheques to its 35,000 depositors whose funds have been frozen since the bank was closed more than a year ago.

The Bank of Credit and Commerce Hong Kong, closed in July 1991 amid a global financial scandal, is returning all funds to those who had US\$12,820 or less in its vaults. Larger depositors are to be sent an initial cheque for 41 per cent of their money. The payments are in line with a proposal accepted by the Hong Kong bank's creditors on September 1 and approved two weeks later by the colony's Supreme Court. A bank spokesman said large depositors would eventually receive 70 per cent to 75 per cent of their funds back, but that may take several more years.

Ross surges ahead

ROSS Group, the rejuvenated car security and packaging group, announced a leap in pre-tax profits from £101,000 to £1.35 million for the six months to end-June. The figure includes a full six-month contribution from Stellar, the car alarms company acquired by the group for £10.8 million in November last year. Group turnover was up nearly three times, from £8.5 million to £23.5 million. Earnings of 0.73p compare with a 0.15p loss per share for the first half last year. The interim dividend was raised from 0.15p to 0.2p. The shares fell 1p to 25p.

EC jobless unchanged

UNEMPLOYMENT in the European Community was 9.5 per cent in July, unchanged from June but still at its highest level since 1988, according to Eurostat, the EC's statistical agency. It estimated the number of unemployed at 14 million. The number of unemployed has risen 50 per cent in Denmark, 33 per cent in Britain, and between 5 and 10 per cent in the Republic of Ireland, France and Italy. It has fallen 30 per cent in the Netherlands, and between 15 and 20 per cent in former West Germany, Spain and Belgium.

Tuskar meeting sought

TUSKAR Resources, now a cash shell whose shares were suspended in August at 1p, faces the prospect of a new direction and a changed board. John Lord, a Dublin stockbroker, has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting to remove certain directors. He intends to redirect the business away from natural resources interests. Tuskar says his plans are not in the best interests, and that the board's energies would be better directed towards having Tuskar's shares relisted. The date for the EGM has to be decided.

Microvitec in profit

MICROVITEC, the information systems and services group that took over Logitek, a rival computer company, last year, is back in profit. The highly geared group made a pre-tax profit of £62,000 in the six months to end-June (£2.2 million loss). Turnover doubled to £25.5 million (£12.5 million) on the back of the Logitek acquisition and gearing, which peaked at 84 per cent in December, remains at 72 per cent. Earnings per share are 0.1p (loss 4.8p) and there is no dividend (nil).

Alchem agrees offer

UNITED Drug, the Dublin pharmaceutical distributor, is making an agreed offer for Alchem, the largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in Northern Ireland. The offer values Alchem at £5.16 million (£5.30 million). The deal will create a group with a turnover of £11.10 million and pre-tax profits of almost £13.5 million, making it the largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in Northern Ireland and the republic and one of the largest in the UK. United Drug is offering 13 new shares for every 8 existing Alchem shares.

Russell group falls

ALEXANDER Russell, the Glasgow quarrying group in which Royalty Finance, a Swiss-registered Arab consortium, holds a 15.67 per cent stake, says weaker demand for building materials saw pre-tax profits fall from £908,000 to £621,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was higher at £18.7 million (£18.2 million). The interim dividend is held at 1p a share. Net earnings were 0.68p (1.4p) a share.

Dinkie Heel steps up

DINKIE Heel, the toecap and shoe-repair products maker, lifted pre-tax profits from £90,000 to £110,000 in the six months to end-June. Additional exports helped to lift turnover to £3.4 million compared with an adjusted level of £2.9 million after stripping out turnover of £701,000 relating to the Enterprise Group that was sold in 1991. Earnings per share were 0.67p (0.55p). The interim dividend is maintained at 0.35p a share.

Job prospects still poor, says survey

By PATRICIA TEHAN

ANY marked improvement in job prospects is still some way off, and staffing levels are likely to carry on falling between now and the end of the year, particularly in London and the South of England, according to Manpower.

A survey of employment prospects from the recruitment consultant says the effect of recession on jobs is becoming geographically more uniform. Nationally, 18 per cent of the 2,028 organisations that responded to the survey are forecasting a decrease in staffing levels in the last quarter of the year, compared with 17 per cent forecasting an increase, a net balance of minus 1 per cent.

Although this is a slight improvement on last year, when there was a net balance of minus 3 per cent, confidence has fallen since the spring, when a positive balance of 6 per cent of companies forecast that staffing levels would rise.

London and the South are still suffering the most. A negative balance of 5 per cent of companies in the home counties expect more job losses and a net 3 per cent of employers based in London expect to lose staff. The figures

are, however, more favourable than last year, when a net 9 per cent balance of London employers forecast job losses.

The biggest improvement comes from firms in the North East, where a net balance of 7 per cent expect to recruit staff, compared with 33 per cent expecting to cut jobs at the same time last year.

Jobs in public building and local government are still falling, though prospects are brighter than last year. Manufacturing employers, including the chemicals sector, are more positive. The services sector, transport and distribution have seen the biggest improvement in prospects with a net 11 per cent of employers expecting to create jobs. Insurance companies are also hoping to recruit, but banks expect further job losses.

The North West is the worst affected region, a net balance of 12 per cent (5 per cent of employers expect to cut jobs). In Scotland, this quarter, a net 4 per cent (2 per cent balance) of companies hope to create jobs. In South Wales, employers are similarly hopeful, a net 4 per cent balance forecasting an increase, compared to a net 1 per cent forecasting a decrease last year.

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TEMPUS

MAI reaps devaluation benefit

RECENT turbulence in money and equity markets should have given MAI, the money broking and information group, a flying start to its current financial year.

Because it is the volume of money, rather than rates, that really counts, and since MAI has a high level of overseas profits and US dollar turnover in Britain, the group will also benefit from a devaluation of sterling.

MAI, where Lord Hollick, the Labour peer, is managing director, managed a 7 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £71.2 million in the year ended June, the fifth consecutive year of growth, on a turnover that was 8 per cent higher at £389 million. Of the pre-tax total, £44 million was generated by wholesale broking activities, against £39.6 million previously.

Results were helped by a rise from £7.9 million to £10.4 million of net interest, and net earnings that rose from £2.6p to £3.7p a share permit a rise in the total distribution from 5.5p to 6p.

Not everything went MAI's way last year and, however, Europe's leading outdoor and free-sheet advertising group in which a 15 per cent stake is held, was not left unscathed by the recession in Europe. But MAI did make money out of property — £3.4 million pre-tax, against £2.3 million a year earlier — and its financial information company won a number of new long-term supply contracts from which profits are expected to flow this year.

Looking into 1994, and MAI should be seeing profits starting from its 61 per cent of Meridian Broadcasting, which in the recent round of TV franchises won a broad-casting licence for the south and southeast of England, to be taken up in January. MAI plans a £30 million investment in Meridian.

MAI had year end net cash of £100 million, and pre-tax profits this year should advance to £80.3 million. At 126p, the shares trade on 8.1 times prospective earnings. They do not look dear.

Brent Chemicals

BRENT Chemicals, the specialty chemicals group, is unabashed after making a £15.6



Fifth consecutive year of growth: Lord Hollick, managing director of MAI Group

million cash call in November and issuing a profits warning in January.

It hopes it demonstrated to shareholders that it knew what it was doing at the time. They should be better pleased with half-year pre-tax profits for the year to the end of June up by 39 per cent to £6.4 million and an effectively maintained dividend of 1.60p.

Indeed, Brent is contemplating further acquisitions in aerospace electronics or packaging: either one of £10 million or two of £5 million. Brent has a strong balance sheet, with £4 million of net cash, but that is likely to be whittled away by deferred payments for acquisitions.

The tax charge at Brent is down to a more usual 36 per cent, after it rose temporarily at the year end to 48 per cent because of an ACT problem. Earnings in the half year have risen from 4.4p to 5.3p.

On full-year forecasts of £12.5 million, against £5.2 million before tax for 1991 earnings are expected to rise from 2.9p to 10p. At least the expected same-again full-year dividend of 7.3p will be covered

ed this time. The shares rose 8p to 140p yesterday after the results — high enough for now. At that level they yield a prospective 6.95 per cent and stand on a multiple of 14 times earnings. Yesterday's price compares with the one for four calls at 120p. But with a third of profits in Germany and a quarter in America, Brent will be hoping for help from the foreign exchanges, which cost £300,000 in the first half.

Although average selling prices fell from £90,000 to £86,000, the numbers sold rose 25 per cent to 2,330. With costs under tight control and land bank provisions falling from £8 million to £2 million, the division saw operating profits rise from £9 million to £15.6 million and operating margins from 5.7 per cent to 7.9 per cent.

Both construction and property generated cash, so the investment that swelled the land bank to 10,000 sites made a negligible impact on the balance sheet with net borrowings of £15.6 million giving gearing of 8 per cent.

Assuming 2,500 house sales, profits of £23 million look possible putting the shares at 90p on a multiple approaching 16. Quality and safety never come cheap.

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demand closer examination. For while Persimmon recently got it all wrong by opening new sites in anticipation of a recovery that never came, Bryant's solution was to increase activity at each site, relying on quality and competitive pricing to sell more houses. It worked.

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STOCK MARKET

Lively trading as investors pin hopes on base rate cut

SHARE prices experienced another volatile session with investors continuing to pin their hopes on a cut in bank base rates this week.

Speculation in the Square Mile centres on a one-point cut to 9 per cent, but the Chancellor did not appear to be in any rush yesterday to make the move.

After a cautious start to the new two-week trading account, with 15 companies among the top 100 going ex-dividend, share prices recovered, and before long the FTSE 100 index saw a rise of more than 44 points in anticipation of cheaper money.

But after the Bank of England indicated that there would not be any cut in interest rates, for the time being at least, prices came off the boil as the market gave further consideration to the narrow majority of the "yes" vote in the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

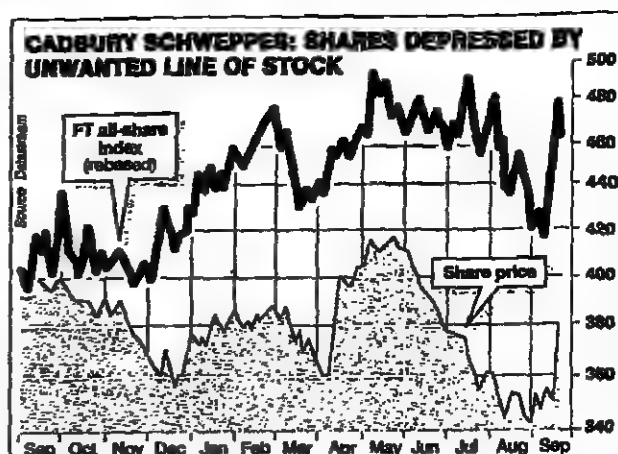
By late afternoon the index had lost all its previous gains and was nursing a loss of 13 points as Wall Street also kicked in lower after the weekend break. The index eventually closed off the bottom, 6.9 lower at 2,560.1.

Turnover again reached a healthy level with 953 million shares changing hands. There are still plenty of buyers although they are finding the going far from easy.

Market-makers are under intense pressure to cover existing short positions. They are trying to force prices lower in order to cover those positions. Because of the stock shortages, the bulls are finding it increasingly difficult to trade in any significant size.

The stock shortages are becoming increasingly apparent among the big dollar earners with further gains for Restech, 9p to £12.37, Wellcome, 30p to 963p, Rowater, 20p to 813p, Bass, 14p to 570p, Guinness, 23p to 538p, ICI, 18p to £11.55 and Lasso, 12p to 160p.

However, there are signs that some institutions are prepared to release stock and take profits after the strong gains of the past few days. A large programme trade was recorded in late trading that succeeded



ed in depressing the rest of the market as a number of large lines of stock went through the market.

These included 1.2 million Fortis, down 7p at 154p, 1.2 million BP, up 4p at 218p, 1.2 million IFT, 5p better at 352p, 1 million British Gas, 4p firmer at 235p, 1 million British Steel, up 3p at 67p, 2.5 million Burton Group, down 1p at 40p, 1.7 million Regalian Properties, 4p harder at 4p, 1.4 million Perkins Foods, 2p cheaper at

the opposite and switch into Rank.

TVS Entertainment returned 2p better at 21p after announcing terms of an agreed bid from IFE, the US cable television company. IFE is offering £38 million for TVS.

Tony Brook, TVS managing director, said the group had not entered into takeover talks with other parties. TVS returned to the black at the halfway stage, announcing a

European Motor Holdings firmed 1p to 74p, helped by a strong buy recommendation from Wise Speke, the stockbroker. It reckons the group's strong management will get the best out of recent acquisitions and this will provide a strong boost to earnings. This has, so far, failed to be reflected in the share price, which has underperformed the market by 15 per cent in the past year. Wise Speke expects the trend in the price to be reversed during the next six months.

53p, and 1.4 million Rascal, 2p better at 55p.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks company, was a dull market after the shares went ex-dividend. But the price was further depressed by claims that a large line of stock, possibly amounting to 5 million shares, was overhanging the market.

Rank Organisation was a firm market, gaining 7p to 546p despite whispers that one broker has downgraded its profit estimates for the group and is urging clients to switch into Thorne EMI, 2p higher at 747p. Henderson Crossroads, the stockbroker, has been urging clients to do

pre-tax profit of £7.6 million compared with a loss last time of £10.9 million. The group is due to lose its independent television franchise at the end of this year.

T. Cowie, the motor distributor that recently lost a battle to win control of rival Henrys, firmed 2p to 141p. Tom Cowie, chairman, has sold 1 million shares worth an estimated £1.38 million. It reduces his holding in the company to 8 million shares, or 6.35 per cent.

Bryant Group, the house-builder, climbed 9p to 90p after bucking the trend and reporting full-year figures showing little signs of recession. Pre-tax profits were dou-

bled at £20 million after the sale of 2,330 houses, an increase of 25 per cent on the previous year. The average price of a Bryant home fell 5 per cent to £86,000.

There was selective support for the rest of the building sector amid mounting hopes that the expected cut in bank base rates will be enough to pull the industry out of recession. This was also in spite of fears that the government is ready to make further cuts to public spending.

Gains were witnessed in Amec, 7p to 80p, Abbey, 5p to 65p, Ashted, 5p to 95p, Barco, 3p to 92p, Bellway, 9p to 229p, Bellwinch, 3p to 17p, Crest Nicholson, 2p to 34p, Higgs & Hill, 2p to 41p, How Group, 3p to 26p, Alfred McAlpine, 6p to 89p, Persimmon, 3p to 186p, an ex-dividend form, Tilbury Douglas, 29p to 433p, Westbury, 4p to 54p, Wilson Connolly, 5p to 119p and George Wimpey, 7p to 104p. John Laing A was another firm market, climbing 12p to 160p after going ex-dividend.

The building supply companies also attracted support in the belief that a move to lower interest rates will stimulate the industry. Meyer International added 17p to 210p, Travis Perkins 15p to 131p, Wickes 2p to 82p, Wolsley 8p to 371p, Aughan Group 6p to 198p, Baggeridge Brick 3p to 56p, CRH 8p to 225p, Hepworth 3p to 91p, Heywood Williams 16p to 170p, Istock Johnson 4p to 55p, Marley 6p to 91p, Marshall 5p to 63p, Newman Tunks 9p to 103p, Pilkington 2p to 90p, Spring Ram 5p to 140p, Ringier Group 6p to 205p ex-dividend, and Tarmac 3p to 70p.

Banks lost some of their recent sparkle. Barclays eased 2p to 344p, Lloyds 14p to 435p, National Westminster 2p to 340p, Abbey National 2p to 300p, Standard Chartered 1p to 437p, and TSB Group 7p to 132p. But there was selective support for HSBC, 9p up at 399p, Allied Irish, 7p up at 175p, and Bank of Ireland, 5p higher at 168p.

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COMMENT

Conditions that start at home

Carlos Solchaga, the chairman of the IMF interim committee, may have been thinking partly as Spain's finance minister when he linked sterling's return to the ERM, one way or another, to the Maastricht treaty being ratified by Parliament. The suggestion does, however, put some focus on Norman Lamont's conditions for re-entry. Few would argue against waiting until the foreign exchanges have reached calmer waters. There is unspoken self-criticism in the more significant conditions: that the British and German economies should be in better cyclical synchrony and that there should be greater co-operation in running the ERM.

Sterling's first entry aimed to use the ERM to bear down on inflation at a moment when Britain was already in recession and the Bundesbank was already worrying about the gathering German boom. Any re-entry would need to be at a rate aimed to accommodate remaining short-term differences rather than affect domestic conditions. For medium-term co-ordination, interest rates would need to be well below those in Germany early in recovery, later rising at least to rates then prevailing in Germany.

Technical co-operation within the ERM broke down during August, when sterling reached the 75 per cent mark on the divergence indicator and Mr Lamont ignored the presumption, under ERM rules, that corrective action would be taken. If the government thought the required rise in interest rates would merely remind the markets that the economy was too weak to take further punishment, it also knew the game was up for sterling. If other countries are to have an absolute obligation to support a weak currency at the divergence threshold, domestic policy action must also be obligatory.

In theory, Britain could still have mobilised the money supply of Europe to defend sterling at the floor. It did not dare to do so because Mr Lamont knew the currency was fundamentally out of line and could not survive a French *non*, however much the Bank of England borrowed for support over six months. This was not a failure of the system but shows that infinite reserves are useless if the fundamentals are wrong. This lesson will need to be remembered. Even if monetary union eventually got back on track, markets would expect a further general realignment *en route*. The one lesson that should be learnt in the Bundesbank is that having to create billions of marks for ERM intervention is just as inflationary as domestic money growth and should be given equal weight in setting interest rates.

Urgent Sears

There is a purposefulness about the manner of Sears' withdrawal from menswear that was missing in the past. An ability to clarify objectives was among the qualities that persuaded the sleepy retail chain to lure Liam Strong from British Airways. He did not arrive a minute too soon. The group's 350 remaining menswear shops are swallowing cash at the rate of some £16 million a year. They would have cost still more to turn round and Sears would still have ended up with a business that it did not want, with a tiny share of a cut-throat market. Such was Sears' new-found urgency to act on a decision that it has helped finance the buyout.

Mr Strong will concentrate on the shoe shops, the Adams childrenswear chain, the Olympus and Millets sports and leisurewear outlets and the Wallis and Miss Selfridge chains, all of which are strong in their markets. The City now awaits the answer to the question of the dividend. Mr Strong's deck-clearing provisions will leave too little to cover an unchanged payment this year. Yesterday's 5p improvement in the share price to 69p suggests investors are prepared to allow action to speak louder than dividends.

Wolfgang Münchau
says that after last week's events, Britain could find itself on the fringes of a multi-level Europe with a federal core

If the Bundesbank really wanted to put the boot in, why not issue an "unauthorised" view on the following subject: Britain, after the ERM débacle and the French Yes vote, going to be in the second division of a two-tier Europe or in the third division of a three-tier Europe?

The question of the extent of Britain's isolation is not as absurd and condescending as it may seem at first, although on reflection the Bundesbank may perhaps be well advised to stay out of this altogether. One should not kick a man when he is down, especially not if one is deemed, however unfairly, to have put him there in the first place.

Those not afraid of the thorny issue of variable geometry in Europe would consider the above question not nearly so offensive, and perhaps even as absolutely crucial in the debate of Britain's future in Europe. There can be little doubt that Britain at the moment is not only down, but also out of the heart of Europe, which John Major thought was Britain's rightful place.

With the suspension of sterling from the ERM—or was it expulsion?—Britain has detached itself from an important aspect of European co-operation, whether intended or not. When the French voted Yes to Maastricht, they indirectly also ensured the survival of the exchange-rate system from which sterling had earlier been suspended, thereby effectively endorsing this detachment.

But there is much more to it than that. Preventing a federal Europe and Britain's isolation was the centrepiece of the government's European policy. This policy, too, seems to have collapsed. And rightly so. Britain now looks isolated, and the Yes vote might even accelerate the speed at which parts of Europe will now move in the federal direction.

Were this to happen, it may have little if anything to do with the Maastricht treaty. Indeed, the treaty may be completely irrelevant. Many observers and politicians now cast doubt on the survival prospects of the treaty after the narrow Yes vote. Ratification will probably facilitate matters somewhat. Maybe the Danes will content themselves with a solemn "we-all-love-Denmark" declaration; if not, the treaty may have to be completely renegotiated or even dropped altogether.

But in the end, the future of Maastricht may not matter greatly. What matters is whether the Yes vote will lead to a multi-tier Europe with a federal core in the centre and with Britain and others countries waiting

on the fringes. This brings us back to the question of variable geometry and the extent of Britain's isolation, and whether all this matters.

The principal certainty which the French Yes vote has created is the survival of Europe's exchange-rate mechanism, perhaps the most crucial point of all. In the event of a No vote, the ERM and the prospects of a single currency this decade, or even next, would have perished. Financial markets would have erased European economic and monetary union from their expected timescale, and would have reacted by rallying into such "safe" currencies as the mark or the dollar. The other European currencies would have come under such pressure that the ERM would have been torn apart by specialists.

The Yes vote not only guaranteed the ERM's survival, but, combined with the exit of sterling and the lira, strengthened it. The system was burdened by the need to keep on board currencies whose underlying economies have clearly diverged from those of the others. This was clear in the case of Britain and Italy. The Bundesbank carried the brunt of this burden when it spent more than DM50 billion last week in currency intervention, an estimated DM35 billion alone to support sterling.

What is also important is that the fall in membership may also have changed the nature of the system. The most fascinating point is that the ERM may not only be a necessary condition for EMU as set out in the Maastricht treaty, but it may even constitute a sufficient condition, obviating the need for a Maastricht

EUROPEAN VIEW

Fresh start for Europe after a divorce that will end in tiers



Trial separation: the ERM honeymoon is temporarily over for John Major, but not for Chancellor Kohl, left, and President Mitterrand

treaty. This would work only on the condition that the members club is kept small and exclusive. It is especially important for this club not to admit those whose main purpose would be to change the rules of the club, as in the case of Britain, or to break them, as in the case of Italy.

When sterling and the lira were suspended from the ERM, the chances of a non-Maastricht EMU rose considerably. There is nothing new about this kind of Europe. The original six-member EC was such a case. The Europe of variable geometry is the only one to have achieved progress in the past. It will be the only one which will get us out of our ideological mess at the moment.

Under a non-Maastricht EMU, the core ERM currencies of Germany, France and the Benelux countries will be locked into ever tighter bands, culminating in an irrevocably fixed exchange rate, similar to the one-for-seven rate against the mark that Austria adopted in the 1970s and has stuck to ever since.

From irrevocably fixed exchange rates to a single currency is a relatively small step, requiring only an adjustment of nominal parities. Unlike the Maastricht treaty, it would not require a referendum or a change in the constitution. Even the present currencies could remain, provided they are legal tender in the entire currency zone.

The main difference between the two versions of monetary union is that the non-Maastricht EMU needs no complex and condescending rules

about harmonisation and convergence. There will be no convergence criteria, no rules that set out in a complex formula about maximum inflation levels, public sector deficits or debt ceilings. The economies of the Benelux countries, Germany and France are so closely linked that fully fledged monetary union could be possible well before the 1997 or 1999 dates as set out in the Maastricht treaty. There is no reason for these five countries not to adopt irrevocable exchange rates on January 1 next year to coincide with the introduction of the single market.

Maastricht has one advantage over the home-grown EMU in that it envisages the establishment of a central European bank. Otherwise we would have to make do with the Bundesbank. The events of the last week have incidentally established quite clearly that a future European central bank will now most definitely not be located in London, but in Bonn or Frankfurt.

Where does this all leave Britain? All this may perhaps turn out to be a good thing for the economy; interest rates could come down, and the government can now conduct a monetary policy more suited to an economy in deep recession. But then, it may also turn out to be a disaster, given the history of British governments to mismanage an economy under whichever system. However, there is little doubt that the chances for an economic recovery are infinitely greater now than they were a week ago.

Whatever the government's official position, sterling will stay outside the

system for some time. During this period, the mark, the French, Belgian and Luxembourg francs and the guilders, will stick together and grow ever closer in the direction of a single currency. The Italians may want to join this club, but will only be allowed to do so once the country has sorted its constitutional and economic difficulties. Italy now has the best incentive to get on with the job of carrying out the tough policies needed to shrink the budget deficit and the national debt before being allowed back into the core of Europe.

Britain's case is different. It could be a member of the club if it really wanted, but has decided not to do so. Mr Major's demand for an overhaul of the exchange-rate mechanism may be well intended, but it is not clear whether Chancellor Kohl or President Mitterrand would agree. They do not need such a reform for their purposes.

Nor does Mr Major. Even ERM proponents have not been able to make the case that ERM membership proved to be the right policy for Britain, and it is futile to debate what would have happened if Britain had persisted with ERM membership for a little while longer. The events of the last eight days have shown that Europe is not ready to move into ever-closer union of all its members states. But there can equally be no doubt that Europe is ready for a union of a small group of core countries, leaving the others to choose the extent of their involvement at their own pace and in their own time.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Duffield settles claim

VIVIEN Duffield, nee Clore, one of the wealthiest women in Britain, may be interested to hear that her ex-husband John Duffield, fund manager extraordinaire and now running Jupiter Tyndall Merdin, the investment group, has resolved a rather embarrassing case of sexual harassment. Duffield, who is due to be joined at his Knightsbridge headquarters by Lenny Light, one of the stars of Mercury Asset Management, on a salary of £600,000, yesterday handed over £10,000—the statutory maximum—in "full and final settlement" of a sexual harassment claim by one of his junior fund managers, Fiona Mills. In a formal statement, Duffield said that he and the company "acknowledge that Miss Mills may have suffered stress as a result of conduct towards her which was not in any way intended to cause any stress". They added that they "regretted very much any unhappiness which may be caused". The alleged "harassment" was reputed to have involved blue language rather than anything physical. As Vivien Duffield once said of her ex, "He's a brilliant fund manager but a lousy husband."

Peak condition

CANARY Wharf has its uses. After a practice run up its 1,200 stairs in August, Colin Harris, an assistant director at Morgan Grenfell, has conquered the more awesome peaks of Mount Kinabalu



"At the third stroke the value of the pound will be"

(13,500 ft) in Borneo, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Appeal. It took Harris, 37, 12 minutes 41 seconds to sprint to the 50th floor of Canary Wharf and down again. Mount Kinabalu took six hours and five minutes. "Canary Wharf was useful practice for going up and down, but Kinabalu was not so much about running as surviving," says Harris. His efforts raised £45,000 for the Marsden and he says he is now taking up fell running as a more suitable preparation for future climbs.

Name game

THE Lanesborough Hotel, built on the site of the former St George's hospital and run by Rosewood, the Texas hotels group, is anxious to point out that it was ineligible for the recent Hotel of the Year Award—won by Claridges—because it had not been in existence long enough. It has been open

for nine months and is running at 65 per cent occupancy. The Lanesborough's protestations—which indicate its desire to win the award next year—coincide with revelations that the hotel was once destined to be called The Wilton, a Westminster family name. Some of those consulted gave warning, however, that the public might abbreviate it to The Willy, a somewhat undignified nickname for a hotel that charges £2,500 a night for its best suite. The proposal was finally shelved when a site architect sent all those involved a fax that read: "We can't call it The Wilton 'cos it sounds like The Hilton but if we paint the cracks green we could call it The Sillion."

Stork play

IS THERE a spell on Room 212 at National Westminster's Louthbury headquarters? Paul Lockstone, 29, has become the third NarWest PR man in four years to become a father since starting work in the personal finance press office, which operates from Room 212. Press officer Rob Jamieson was the first to succumb two years ago, followed last year by John Morgan—now press officer at Legal & General—and Lockstone's wife Helen gave birth to Sam, their first child, on Sunday. Tim Blythe, deputy head of PR, located in room 213, considers himself safe enough but just-married Mike Verigans, 32, another inhabitant of Room 212, was looking understandably nervous yesterday.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Hidden costs in the price of an international lunch

From Mr John Jannere
Sir, Earlier this month, a luncheon for former UN staff was held in Vienna. Each participant was requested to send an international postal money order in advance for 500 Austrian schillings (£25 approximately at that time).

Participants from France simply went to their local post offices, gave details as to where the money should be sent and paid Fr25. The transfer was complete and there were no charges in Vienna. Participants from other continental European countries did not report any difficulties.

Participants from the UK, however, faced problems, differing advice and greater expense. Several post offices said that such money orders were not available. Giro could, nev-

ertheless, send the money for a fee of £15, but only in sterling as the "exchange rate applicable would not be known". One main post office suggested buying Austrian schilling notes and posting them. Another, sending a UK postal order—which resulted in a second charge in Vienna of approximately £10 for conversion. UK banks could handle the operation and charges were usually £15, although one participant was charged £11. Is it correct that international postal money orders are not available in the UK and, if so, why not? The French charge of £25 was reasonable, but the UK charges, averaging over 50 per cent of the amount involved, were disproportionate. Incidentally, why is it that,

when cheques are presented in a foreign currency to a UK bank, they have to be sent to be "negotiated" and the sterling equivalent is not usually known for some days? The smallest banks in New Zealand, Australia, Andorra, and, no doubt, many other countries, simply refer to their foreign exchange rate lists, updated daily, and credit one's account with a specific amount, with value a certain number of days ahead or on clearance of the cheque. The UK procedure may be appropriate for substantial sums, but surely is generally unnecessary and inconvenient.

Sincerely,
JOHN W. JANNERE
69-B La Plena,
Ordino,
Principality of Andorra.

Cooling-off period needed on copier contracts

From Mr Paul Winner
Sir, Ron Young, the chairman of the Finance and Leasing Association, referred in his letter (September 11) to the publicity arising from "cowboy" photocopying salesmen misrepresenting contracts and forcing small businesses, churches, charities, and schools into financial difficulties or liquidation.

The Campaign to Clean up Copier Contracts (CCCC), supported by the CBI, has details of over 2,000 complainants who have fallen victim to this type of photocopying contract. It is estimated that there are 150,000 "Copy-Plan" or cost-per-copy contracts in existence yielding £1.2 billion per annum to the industry, increasing at 5 to 25 per cent per annum.

The FIA Guidance Notes on Sales Aid Leasing, referred to by Mr Young, do make an important contribution to

dealing with future contract abuses. However, many of the "unfair" contracts signed in the past may have many years to run. The guidelines do not apply to the contracts signed before the guidelines came into effect in April 1992, and do not cover leasing companies which are not members of the FIA.

All leasing companies need to adopt the guidelines. The campaign is now seeking a two-week mandatory "cooling-off" period for all new contracts and for amendments to the Consumer Credit Act and the Unfair Contract Terms Act so that protection already given to individuals is extended to corporate bodies. Yours faithfully,
PAUL WINNER (Director),
Campaign to Clean up Copier Contracts,
Campaign Headquarters,
c/o Paul Winner Consultants Ltd, 141 Sloane Street, SW1.

Law of economics and price of a pint

From W. M. Reid
Sir, I have sympathy with Mr John Willis's letter (September 15) about the price of a pint in London being different from that in the provinces. Also where he says that prices of supermarket goods do not differ.

I fear it is part of the English law of economics—when sales are down increase price to maintain turnover. It was evident in hotel room prices until recently not to mention over-priced restaurant meals—even in recession! Yours faithfully,
W. M. REID,
36 St Peter's Square, W6.

Letters to The Times
Business and Finance
section can be
sent by fax on
071-762 5112.

Over 55?
Why not enjoy a tax free income?

Life may begin at 40, but tax free income for you begins at 55 for 20 years.

That is, if you have invested in the right place. You see, we have a plan which gives you tax free income from investment funds which have already been taxed at source.

This is particularly good news for those of you retired or semi-retired with lump sums of £10,000 or more and wanting to maximise income in a tax efficient manner, without losing control of capital.

And your capital can appreciate without personal Capital Gains Tax with the fund bearing the liability instead. In fact, we can also arrange that the proceeds of one particular plan are paid free of Inheritance Tax to your heirs.

Surely this is worth looking into. It's no more bother than a building society account. Towry Law are one of the largest independent firms of personal financial advisers in the UK offering private clients specialist help with financial planning for over three decades. There is no charge or obligation for our services, and there is much to be gained by sending in the coupon.

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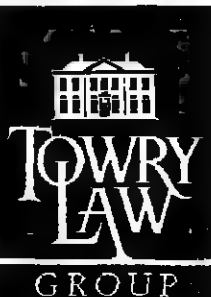
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General Fund	87.33	94.37	+ 2.83	3.24
	85.00	85.00	0.00	0.00

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS				
Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 83.6 (day's range: 83.5-84.0).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES:				
Mix Rates for Sept 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8542-2.8798	2.8550-2.8824	100-p/s	100-p/s
Buenos Aires	17.26-27.52	52.4-52.42	200-zds	100-p/s
Frankfurt	9.8590-9.8810	9.8590-9.8500	n/a/n/a	n/a/n/a
London	9.9500-9.9510	9.9500-9.9500	25-100	100-p/s
Paris	2.5370-2.5319	2.5370-2.5430	100-p/s	100-p/s
Porto Rico	57.20-57.20	57.20-57.20	100-p/s	100-p/s
Madrid	177.00-180.00	178.00-180.00	100-p/s	188-216
Milan	213.00-215.00	214.00-215.00	10-200	54-90
Stockholm	2.0912-2.1080	2.0912-2.1080	100-p/s	100-p/s
New York	1.7040-1.7110	1.7125-1.7135	0.05-0.05	2.60-2.60
Tokyo	10.90-11.00	10.90-11.00	100-p/s	100-p/s
Paris	8.6000-8.7330	8.6310-8.7330	100-p/s	100-p/s
Stockholm	9.4950-9.5970	9.4950-9.5360	n/a/n/a	n/a/n/a
Tokyo	21.00-21.02	21.00-21.02	100-p/s	100-p/s
Vienna	17.80-18.00	17.80-17.95	n/a/n/a	n/a/n/a
Source: Enel	2.2305-2.2546	2.2305-2.2345	100-p/s	100-p/s
			Premium + gr.	Discount - fr.

OTHER STERLING		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina	1.6370-1.6207	4.7200-1.2382	

Pakistan dollar	97.47-104.64
Saudi riyal	992.3-996.6
Cyprus pound	0.5478-0.7583
Hong Kong dollar	7.8923-7.9025
Greece drachma	321.46-325.05
Pink maples	13.209-13.212
India rupee	48.17-48.83
Kuwait dinar KD	0.501-0.506
Malaysia ringgit	4.30-4.31
Mexico peso	331.05-341.0
New Zealand dollar	0.301-0.306
Sri Lanka rupee	6.3665-6.4533
Singapore dollar	2.742-2.75
S Africa rand	6.834-6.8705
S Africa rand (com)	4.8769-4.8865
U A E dirham	0.273-0.320
Banque Bank GTS - Lloyds Bank	
Belgium (Com)	30.61-30.69
Canada	1.2305-1.2310
Denmark	5.68-5.69
Germany	1.466-1.467
Hong Kong	7.7795-7.7305
Ireland	7.75-7.76
Japan	132.52-132.60
Luxembourg	123.30-123.35
Norway	2.515-2.516
Switzerland	1.665-1.668
Malaysia	6.8024-0.8103
Philippines	12.7-12.80
Singapore	1.694-1.695
Taiwan	104.1-104.2
Sweden	5.532-5.5325
Switzerland	1.3060-1.3070

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates Clearing Banks 10 Finance Hse 10;
Discount Market Loans Overnight high 10;
Treasury Bills (Display) 2 m/y : 3 m/y : 5 m/y . Sell : 2 m/y : 3 m/y : 5 y.

Prime Bank Bill (Dkt)	1 m/y	2 m/y	3 m/y	6 m/y	12 m/y
Sterling Money Rates:	10-9%	9-8%	9-8%	8-8%	8-8%
Interbank:	10-9%	9-9%	9-9%	9-9%	9-9%

Overnight open d/a, close n/a.

Local Authority Depos:	n/a				
Sterling CDs:	n/a				
Dollar CDs:	3.11-3.17	9-9%	9-9%	3.12-3.15	3.27-3.3
Building Society CDs:	3-4%	9-9%	3.08-3.05	3.12-3.08	

ECCI: Fixed Rate Sterling Open Finance. Make-up day: August 28, 1992 agreed
reference Sept 23, 1992 to Oct 1, 1992; August Scheme I: 11.36%, Scheme II & III: 11.68%
reference end August 1, 1992 to August 28, 1992; August Scheme IV & V: 10.77%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	3 m/y	1 m/y	3 m/y	6 m/y	Call
Dollars	7-7%	7-7%	3-3	3-3	7-7%
Deutschemark	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%
French Francs	10-10%	10-10%	10-10%	10-10%	11
Swiss Francs	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%
Yen	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%	7-7%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bar)

London	\$348.00-\$349.50	Gold \$347.40-\$347.50	High \$348.00-\$350.00
June \$347.00-\$347.50		Kouparat \$345.00-\$350.00	\$232.00-\$235.00
Soviergold \$482.50-\$485.00	\$484.25-\$485.25	New \$822.00-\$840.00	\$760.00-\$800.00

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall return and check this against the daily dividend. If a matched you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Mirror Co.	Newspaper/Pub	1.00
2	Bryan	Building/Rts	1.00
3	Br Airways	Transport	1.00
4	Granger	Property	1.00
5	Black Sea	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
6	Electronics	Electrical	1.00
7	Wohrman D	Breweries	1.00
8	Peritman	Building/Rts	1.00
9	Barrat Dey	Building/Rts	1.00
10	Sears	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
11	Diploma	Industrial	1.00
12	Dowthorpe	Electrical	1.00
13	Yule Cam	Chemicals	1.00
14	Providence	Chemicals	1.00
15	Dunhill	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
16	Elam	Drugs/Pharm	1.00
17	Portals	Industrial	1.00
18	BM GP	Industrial	1.00
19	Wimpey G	Building/Rts	1.00
20	Brent Chem	Chemicals	1.00
21	Wellman	Industrial	1.00
22	Wolman	Industrial	1.00
23	Farnell Elect	Electrical	1.00
24	ERF	Electrical	1.00
25	Tridair H	Industrial	1.00
26	Waddington H	Building/Rts	1.00
27	Robinson Johnson	Building/Rts	1.00
28	Lamson	Textiles	1.00
29	Salisbury IC	Food	1.00
30	Delaney	Food	1.00
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32	E Rand Prop	Mining	1.00
33	Kewill Sys	Electrical	1.00
34	London & Man	Insurance	1.00
35	Pendragon	Monitors	1.00
36	Govett	Finance, Land	1.00
37	More O'Connell	Property	1.00
38	Woodside	Oil, Gas	1.00
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44	Unigra	Food	1.00

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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Volatile session

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end October 2. Settlement day October 2. Forward margins are permitted on two principal business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND
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3	Br Airways	Transport	1.00
4	Granger	Property	1.00
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ON SATURDAY
12 KMS OF RIGGING WILL BE
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YOUR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE
BROKING PARTNER C E HEATH

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Top banks in South Africa sight Europe

By JON ASHWORTH

THREE powerful South African banking groups are making a determined push to raise their profile in Europe. The most recent move came last week when Standard Bank opened a London trading subsidiary.

Despite being overshadowed by events on the money markets, the irony of the move will not be lost on City observers. It is barely seven years since Standard Chartered sold out of South Africa, abandoning a subsidiary that has now come back to haunt it.

In a separate move, Barclays Bank's former South African subsidiary is in talks to buy Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the small UK merchant bank. If all goes to plan, two familiar British banking names will soon have daily reminders of the networks they abandoned at considerable cost.

Standard Bank London, formerly known as Ludgate Advisory Services, was granted a UK banking licence in

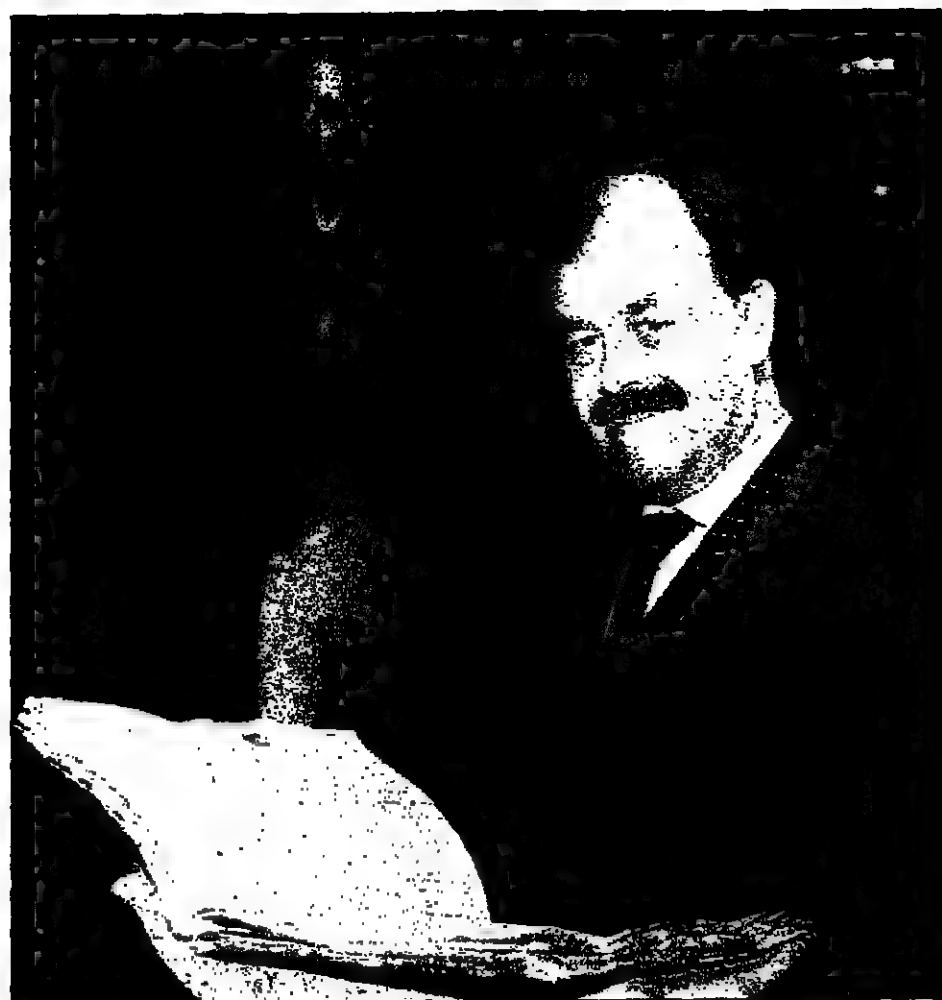
June and will offer a range of treasury and corporate finance services. Standard Bank has also acquired the offshore operations of Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, in Jersey and the Isle of Man.

Barclays announced this month that it was selling Allied Trust Bank to Investec, South Africa's fifth-largest banking group, for £25 million. Allied Trust, formerly Allied Arab Bank, has total assets of about £200 million. The purchase gives Investec a presence in Europe for the first time.

Attention has now switched to First National Bank, which is in advanced talks to buy Henry Ansbacher for a reputed £50 million. If the talks succeed, it will be the first time that a South African bank has acquired a British bank. The takeover would need the Bank of England's approval. First National was born after Barclays disinvested from South Africa in 1986.

Lloyd's does its duty for seamanship

By JONATHAN PRYNN



Keeping up the tradition: Jonathan Jones, with Nelson's log-book from HMS Victory

THE long tradition of Lloyd's encouraging high standards of seamanship is being revived through a new scheme for sponsorship of merchant navy cadets funded by charitable donations from Lloyd's underwriters and brokers.

Jonathan Jones, underwriter for marine syndicate 329, who devised the Lloyd's Officer Cadet Scheme, said falling standards of seamanship meant about 75 per cent of all marine casualty losses are caused by human error. These high levels of losses have crippled the Lloyd's marine market in recent years.

The scheme, launched last week, will this year sponsor two cadets through their courses at South Shields training college at a total cost of £11,000, of which half will be provided in the form of a government grant. If successful, the programme will be expanded to sponsor up to 10 cadets. Mr Jones, who is an underwriter with the Octavian managing agency, said he also hoped to open up the scheme to other members of EC countries.

Lloyd's has long been a staunch supporter of innovations such as the Pimsoli line and the Lloyd's Register of Shipping that have helped reduce marine losses.

Smith New Court to extend its dealing service

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SMITH New Court, the stockbroker, is to extend its dealing service to cover a wider range of shares in smaller companies despite contrasting moves by other securities houses.

Smith is to help companies faced with the transfer of trading in their shares from the Stock Exchange Seaq system to the company bulletin board.

Anthony Abrahams, head of UK market making at Smith, said: "We are well aware of the commercial difficulties market makers have in maintaining a two-way quote in shares that are traded infrequently."

"We are also aware of the difficulties that companies and their shareholders may experience in dealing in their shares. We will endeavour to provide this service to our clients."

Smith will initially take on up to 50 extra companies, with the new service due to start next week. A trader at Smith said: "The recession will not be here for ever. We think it is right to maintain the attraction to go public."

The news will be welcomed by some smaller companies after County NatWest decided last week to significantly reduce its coverage of second line stocks. It is thought that County could stop making markets in as many as 200 to 300 smaller companies.

County's action followed a similar move by SG Warburg Securities this month. Warburg ceased making markets in 362 small company stocks, with a number of those companies being switched from the main market to the company bulletin board, which provides information to match buyers and sellers of the shares of illiquid smaller companies.

Many of those relegated to the bulletin board are left with only one market maker. A number of companies have criticised the Stock Exchange for failing to deal with the problem of illiquidity. The system has also been criticised by brokers, who say it does little to encourage trading. The Stock Exchange's domestic committee is due to meet this week to consider ways of improving the bulletin board.

A ray of hope for smaller companies is provided by Winterflood Securities, the specialist smaller companies stockbroker that deals in about 850 companies.

Winterflood has extended the range of companies it covers, and Brian Winterflood, its managing director, is "toying with the idea" that his group could one day become "the stockbroker to smaller companies — all companies".

"A lot of these companies have paid a great deal of money to get a quote. People are not getting a good enough service," said Mr Winterflood.

Mr Winterflood, who believes the time is now right to increase smaller companies involvement, saw signs of increased activity during last week's stock market surge, even among second-line stocks.

He said: "We doubled our bargains last week, although they have been at a low level."

"We do need a bit of fine tuning to our market if we want to get over this problem of illiquidity," says Mr Winterflood, although he feels we are over the worst. "It's all looking better. In the last six months, the market has been a real cow, but I think we are over the worst and we are in with a real chance."

Philip Meredith, a director of Kleinwort Benson who heads the securities house's smaller companies team, is also optimistic.

He said: "Most of the smaller companies have risen with the rest of the market. In the past it has been fragmented. The illiquid part of the market has drifted away."

However, people coming to the market these days have to be in a more developed state than previously. Gone are the days when a company capitalised as low as a few million pounds could come to the market, with the view to obtaining a quote and raising capital.

A more realistic market capitalisation of at least £10 million is likely to be necessary nowadays, given that the cost of coming to the market, even for a relatively small company, will not fall far short of £500,000.

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Marginal rise for Metalrax

By MATTHEW BOND

METALRAX, the Birmingham engineering group, has continued to defy recession by reporting pre-tax profits of £3.3 million for the six months to end-June, a marginal but nonetheless significant rise over the first half of 1991.

The £13,000 increase in pre-tax profits is the company's 17th consecutive increase and came despite a 6 per cent drop in turnover to £30 million. The interim dividend is increased by 10 per cent to 1p (0.91p).

John Wardle, chairman, said sales were even more difficult to achieve than in 1990 or 1991. The record profits, he said, were proof of "the remarkable ability of the Metalrax management team to manage costs, which owes a great deal to the recommendation of healthy and consistent investment in capital plant and equipment to ensure the maintenance of profitability". He said shareholders "will not be dissatisfied" with the full year results in March.

Capital expenditure in the first half was 25 per cent up on the same period of 1991. Despite that, the company's cash balances were £3 million higher than a year ago.

Mandarin poised to recover

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

MANDARIN Oriental International should record full-year profit growth in 1992 for the first time since 1989, Simon Keswick, chairman, said.

The hotel owner and management company, 50 per cent owned by Jardine Strategic Holdings, announced a 10 per cent rise in net profit to US\$19.2 million for the first six months. Mr Keswick said: "The stronger performance of our hotels in Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore should enable the company to achieve profit growth for 1992 as a whole." He gave no precise forecast but profits had fallen to US\$37.4 million in 1991 from a high of US\$50.4 million in 1989.

Mr Keswick said: "The major factor in the company's improved performance was the growth of travel both from within the Asia-Pacific region and from Europe."

In Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore occupancy levels were higher but room rates showed little growth and fell in Singapore. Contributions from hotels in Macao and Jakarta were affected by new competitors. Bangkok's result was little changed.

Salvesen completes sale of oil services company

By OUR CITY STAFF

CHRISTIAN Salvesen, the Edinburgh storage and transport group, has completed the sale of Salvesen Oilfield Technology, its oil field services subsidiary, for £28.5 million. The purchaser is BJ Services of Houston, Texas.

The net book value of the assets being sold is £15.8 million from which an operating profit of £3.3 million was earned in the financial year to end March.

Under the financing terms, Christian Salvesen receives an initial £13.5 million and £15 million in the form of a 90-day note. The sale proceeds will be used to reduce gearing, which stood at 35 per cent at the March year end. Talks about a possible sale of the Aberdeen

subsidiary were announced in July.

The subsidiary supplies a number of specialist services to the off shore oil industry, including casings for drill holes and well bottom clearing services. However, the oil operations no longer form part of Christian Salvesen's long term strategy, which is aimed at concentrating on its core distribution and hire operations.

Dr Chris Masters, chief executive of Christian Salvesen, said: "The sale of Salvesen Oilfield Technology is in line with our strategy of focusing on a limited number of activities where we have a demonstrable and maintainable competitive edge."

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	£ (MILLIONS)	% (91/90)
TOTAL ASSETS (including commitments and contingencies)	80,350	+13.2
DEPOSITS FROM CUSTOMERS	31,126	+13.5
LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS	23,090	+14.5
FUNDS UNDER ADMINISTRATION	49,505	+16.9
GROSS OPERATING PROFIT	761	+ 3.2
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	2,633	+23.7

The following subsidiaries have also contributed to the 1991 consolidated figures: Monte Paschi Leasing, Monte Paschi Factor, Monte Paschi SE.R.I.T., G.E.R.I.T., IFC, Monte Paschi Finanza S.I.M., Monte Paschi Mercato S.I.M., Centrofinanziaria, MPS U.S. Commercial Paper.

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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

LAW TIMES

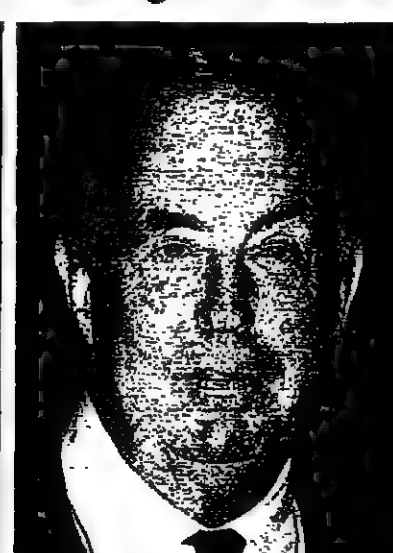
Should some people be knighted automatically? Derek Wheatley questions awards for top civil servants, soldiers and judges, but argues the case for the lower ranks



Sir Louis Blom-Cooper: knighted for his public service



Lord Williams of Mostyn: Chairman of the Bar



Lord Alexander of Wealdton: former Bar chairman



Sir Richard Gaskell: last president of the Law Society to be knighted

A matter of honours

The prime minister has indicated that he wants an overhaul of the honours system. He has hinted that if there is one, it might be a scaling-down of the "automatic" honours to the benefit of those who earn them through some particular individual achievement.

So little is generally known, even by recipients, that more openness must be in the public interest, and a review might help achieve it.

Every Englishman loves a Lord — and would love to be one. Or perhaps a Knight Companion of the Bath, or a member of one of the several other orders of chivalry. How is it done? Who decides who should get what and why?

Lindsay Wilkinson, the honours secretary, provided me with some, but not all, of the answers. All honours are granted by the Queen on the prime minister's advice, but this masks the reality of how names are put forward.

There are several main categories. The diplomatic and overseas list is the responsibility of the foreign secretary, military honours are looked after by the defence secretary, and legal honours by the Lord Chancellor.

Then there is the prime minister's list, covering both political and non-political honours. The non-political list may be of the most interest, as it is a category without limits. Between 120 and 150 recommendations are received at 10 Downing Street alone every week, but the total number of honours given annually from the prime minister's list is fewer than 2,000.

All recommendations should receive equal consideration, and stand the same chance of success, whether made by a referee collector or a cabinet minister. There is a sifting process but details about it are not forthcoming.

The robing room attendant at the law courts whose long service, Cockney wit, unfailing good humour and endless fund of very funny, very rude jokes earn him a BEM will have helped many a future judge into his robes. So is he better placed in the honours stakes than his counterpart in some remote part of the country? Miss Wilkinson maintained stoutly that the system is fair for all.

So why are details of the screening process taboo? Would it matter much if the sort of people who are consulted were revealed? The whole system is shrouded in mystery.

and this cannot help the consideration of every deserving case, although I believe every one receives careful consideration. Nobody is prepared to explain which factors matter most.

A broad division can be made between those honours that receive automatic consideration and those that do not. In the civil service, a permanent secretary is likely to be knighted sooner or later, as is a lieutenant-general in the army, or a naval vice-admiral, whereas there is no such accepted threshold for those whose merit shines out on the playing fields, on the stage or in charitable work.

The law does pretty well. At least some parts do. Barristers, who number fewer than 7,000, provide the whole of the senior judiciary. There are 85 High Court judges, 27 lord justices of appeal and ten lords of appeal.

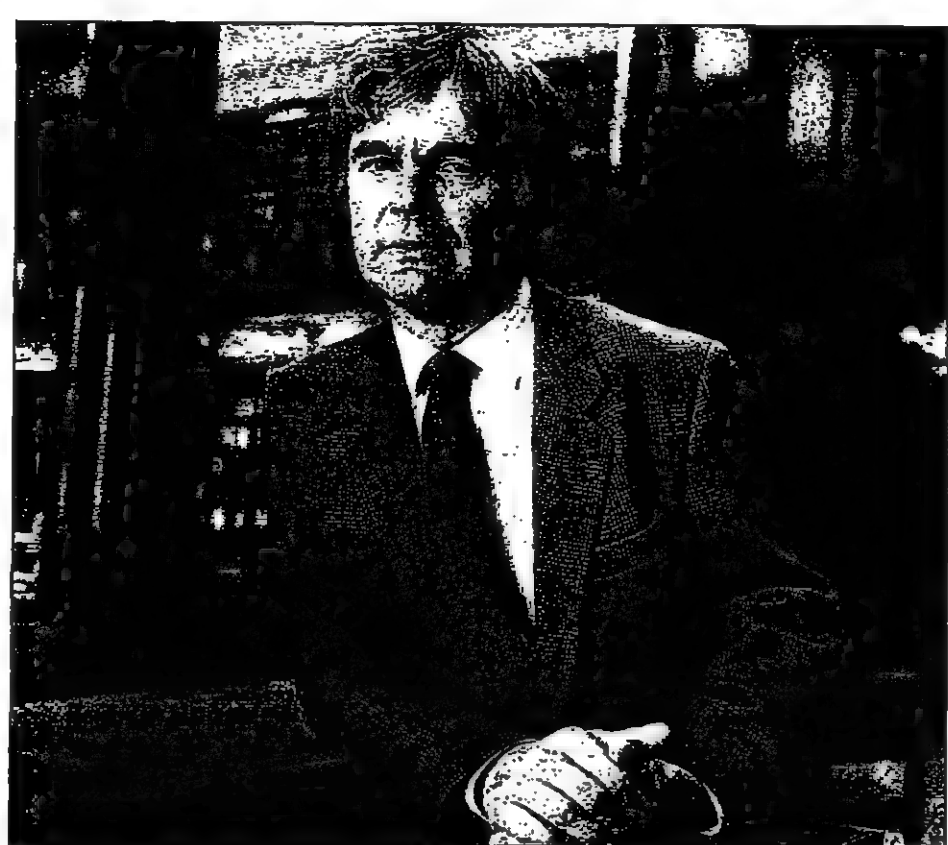
All High Court judges are knighted, and all chairmen of the Bar are offered a place on the High Court bench. All lord justices of appeal are also appointed to the Privy Council, and all lords of appeal are life peers.

They are honoured not because they are barristers, but because they have become judges. By so doing, they have probably made some financial sacrifice. The £97,000 paid to a law lord, the £93,000 of a judge in the Court of Appeal or the £84,250 of a High Court judge is likely to be less than the earnings of a busy QC or an equity partner in one of the City firms.

Sir Frederick Lawton, a retired lord justice, has said that "money is not the lure of the bench", and that the prospect of being knighted did not lure him. However, the prospect of legal honours must be an inducement for some who accept promotion to the bench, and certainly it is no disincentive.

Traditionally, the Bar and politics have gone hand in hand. The rhetoric that is the hallmark of a successful advocate has often been the foundation for political eloquence and advancement.

It may be harder for a barrister MP to find a parliamentary pair in order to escape from Westminster to take a case in the county court, but the pairing system still enables 58 barrister MPs to



David Ward: he did not receive a knighthood as president of the Law Society

carry on in practice. There are 29 solicitor MPs, too, and this figure itself is a strong representation for any profession.

The traditional link between the Bar and politics is the reason for the large number of political peers from the Bar. The present chairman of the Bar, Lord Williams of Mostyn, is the latest. There are 74 barrister peers, including hereditary peers, and 19 of them sit on the Labour benches.

Soon we can expect to see the first solicitors on the High Court bench, although 18 months have already elapsed since they became eligible.

Meanwhile, the 59,000 solicitors now practising do not fare too well. For many years, just one solicitor has been knighted annually, the award going to the president of the Law Society towards the end of his year in office, which entails a great sacrifice of time.

The knighthood must have been an inducement for the best possible candidates, and even their partners in the office would have enjoyed some reflected glory. Such knighthoods helped to oil the legal wheels, and had become automatic. The first knighted president was dubbed in 1882, and all 30 of the presidents between 1960 and 1989 were knighted. The practice ended in 1989 with Sir Richard Gaskell. The gov-

ernment had given notice that the automatic honour would cease.

David Ward, the next president, did not receive it. What was the reason? There were conflicting rumours. One was that another professional body, noting the distinction given to the Law Society, asked why its own president should not also be honoured.

The government examined the Law Society's position again and concluded that one year in office is not a sufficient reason for the honour. Instead of giving an additional honour to other professions, the government withdrew the Law Society's entitlement.

Some question whether any honours should be automatic and dependent solely on rank or grade in the civil service or forces, or whether any honour should be directly related to a particular achievement. The withdrawal of the Law Society's presidential knighthood has not been offset by other awards within the profession.

Solicitors who put in years of work to right miscarriages of justice, often without pay, do not receive honours, nor do senior partners in big City law firms. Nor do barristers, as such, receive rewards for their services as court advocates. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper was knighted for his work chairing various public bodies. In the law as elsewhere, the time seems ripe for the prime minister's review.

● The author is banking consultant for the law firm Watson, Forster & Williams.

tions of doing business in the EC.

Coded claims

THE Solicitors Property Group has launched a code of practice guaranteeing transparency of fees, honest and straightforward advice, and independent financial advice, among other claims.

Sunday sermon

SUNDAY trading law reform has become a crusade for Southampton lawyer Tony Ashman, of Hephern Winstanley & Pugh, who acts for B & Q. Mr Ashman says a ruling against retailers by the European Court of Justice would threaten "the livelihoods of thousands".

Lunch loss

LUNCHES at Stephenson Harwood will never be quite the same. The City firm is mourning the departure of its in-house chef, Ms Clare Campbell Harris, who is starting her own business.

SCRIVENER

A little home help for male au pairs

A CAREFUL reading of the immigration rules can cause surprise and bewilderment to even the most experienced practitioner. The case of Johan Egelstedt, a male Swedish au pair, aged 19, has focused attention on an immigration rule of especial absurdity. It also raises the important issue of how to tackle sex discrimination in immigration law.

Rule 33 of the immigration rules allows "an unmarried girl aged 17 to 27 inclusive and without dependants", who is a national of any member state of the European Community or of specified other European countries, to "come to the United Kingdom to learn the English language and to live for a time as a member of an English-speaking family". An au pair may remain in this country for up to two years.

At the end of last month the Home Office decided that because rule 33 applies only to "girls", Mr Egelstedt could not remain here as an au pair with the Leicester family that had invited him to stay. After representations from the family's MP, Greville Janner, the Home Office allowed Mr Egelstedt to remain in the country for a month as a visitor.

The sex discrimination inherent in the au pair rule conflicts with basic principles of equality law contained in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 by assuming that men are unsuitable to perform certain types of jobs. The Home Office has aggravated the wrong by reliance on alleged administrative convenience — the nightmare of male au pairs flooding the country — as a defence for inequality.

There can be little doubt that the rule breaches European Community law. Indeed, the Home Office implicitly acknowledged this by announcing that male au pairs will be welcome if they come from member states of the Community.

Legal challenges to sexually discriminatory immigration laws have had little success in English courts. The Court of Appeal held in 1988 that "wives" cannot be construed to include "husbands" in the Immigration Act. So "au pair girls" cannot be interpreted as referring also to boys.

In 1980, the Court of Appeal dismissed a complaint that under the immigration rules a foreign husband had no right to remain in the UK with his student wife, even though the foreign wife of a man studying in the country was entitled to remain. The court held that in making immigration rules, the

secretary of state was not subject to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. The House of Lords reached a similar conclusion in 1983, rejecting a complaint about sex discrimination in the provision of special vouchers for entry to the UK.

The courts have not pronounced on a more fundamental challenge to sexually discriminatory immigration rules. It is well established that the home secretary's power to make immigration rules is subject to the general principles of administrative law. He must act rationally and for a purpose intended by Parliament. In 1986, the High Court allowed an application for judicial review and struck down an immigration rule that it considered to be perverse.

It is strongly arguable that equality of opportunity for men and women is now so central to public policy in the UK that when Parliament confers a discretionary power on a minister, it cannot have intended him to discriminate on grounds of sex, unless it specifically said so, or unless the discrimination has some powerful justification.

Such an approach is supported by a decision of Mr Justice Cooke in the Supreme Court of New Zealand in 1977. He held that a minister had not lawfully exercised his power to specify conditions governing the payment of removal expenses for teachers, when the conditions laid down by him treated married female teachers less favourably than married male teachers. Mr Justice Cooke concluded that "in modern times, discrimination on the ground of sex alone is so controversial, and so widely regarded as wrong, that I would not be prepared to infer authority to introduce it from" the general language of the statute.

So dramatic have been recent changes in legal and public policy that a department of state now applying discretionary powers in a sexually discriminatory manner without specific authorisation from Parliament may well be declared unlawful as a matter of public law.

Paragraph 6 of the immigration rules promises that "immigration officers will carry out their duties without regard to the race, colour or religion of people seeking to enter the United Kingdom". Equality of opportunity for men and women should be added to this principle so that the Home Office can avoid further public ridicule, as well as the risk of legal challenges.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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A party in Paris

THE Maastricht vote is good news for many City law firms. Despite last week's financial turbulence, the lawyers in Linklaters' Paris office were confident that there would be a majority in favour of Maastricht. "I am sure absolutely that, yes, we'll win," said French partner Jean-Marc Lefevre, on the day the pound crashed out of the ERM.

Linklaters' staff were all for the treaty. "When you are exposed to international transactions daily, you see how essential it is," said M Lefevre. They are now all celebrating.

Among French lawyers as a whole, however, there was probably a small majority opposed to any closer European union. "The legal profession here is conservative. If you are outside Paris, you would probably see little to be gained from Maastricht," said M Lefevre.

INNS AND OUTS



66P

Pension progress

THE committee set up by the government to review pensions law, headed by the Norton Rose professor of English Law at Oxford, Professor Roy Goode, last week produced its consultation paper. Compensation schemes for pension

funds, and tougher controls on who may become a trustee, are among the proposals.

In the meantime, the Equal Opportunities Commission has produced *Your Pension Matters* to help women avoid impoverishment. Government research shows that women fare badly in retirement because of low earnings and work breaks. Only 15 per cent of women in Britain can claim the full state pension in their own right.

On the box

THE offices of S.J. Berwin in Gray's Inn Road, central London, were turned into a television studio for a day last week while Television Education Network moved in to film a series of interviews.

The firm's competition specialist Ralph Cohen was questioned by John Howard of BBC Radio's *You and Yours* about the legal implica-

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Reasonable excuse for unpaid tax No duty of loyalty on former agent

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Steptoe

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott

[Judgment July 27]

A taxpayer was not prevented by section 33(2)(a) of the Finance Act 1985 from putting forward the reason for his insufficiency of funds to pay due tax as a reasonable excuse for his default.

Where the taxpayer's main client persistently delayed paying his bills so that financial difficulties rendered him unable to pay the value-added tax due, the tribunal had been entitled to decide that that excuse was sufficient to relieve him from penalties which would otherwise have been payable.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Scott dissenting, when dismissing the appeal of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from Mr Justice Kennedy (The Times May 6, 1991) who had affirmed the decision of the VAT tribunal (Chairman Judge Medd, QC) that Mr John Steptoe was relieved from paying a 30 per cent surcharge for late payment of VAT. Redbridge Borough Council, which accounted for 95 per cent of Mr Steptoe's work as an electrical contractor, had during the relevant period delayed in paying bills. In consequence he had insufficient funds to meet his VAT liabilities. Section 19(6)(b) of the 1985 Act provided that liability for a surcharge would not arise if a person, who might otherwise be liable, satisfied the commissioners or, on appeal, the VAT tribunal, that

there was a reasonable excuse for the return or tax not having been despatched.

Section 33(2)(a) of the 1985 Act provided that insufficiency of funds to pay any tax due was not a reasonable excuse.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the commissioners, Mr Steptoe in person.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said that section 33(2)(a) did not prevent the reason for an insufficiency of funds being put forward as a reasonable excuse for the purposes of section 19(6).

However, in his Lordship's judgment, the reason must amount to something more than that the taxpayer's business had been carried on unprofitably or that conditions of trade produced cash flow problems. Absent some unforeseeable or inescapable event, cash flow problems were, in his opinion, barred by section 33(2)(a) from constituting a reasonable excuse.

On the facts as found by the tribunal, the inevitable conclusion was that the late payment by Redbridge Borough Council was not capable of constituting a reasonable excuse for Mr Steptoe's late payment of VAT.

He would have allowed the appeal.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Another

Before Mr Justice Harman

[Judgment July 31]

A principal, who had terminated an agent's authority to act for specific purposes, while encouraging that agent to seek instructions in the same manner from a new client, could not thereafter claim that the agent still owed him a duty of loyalty.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an agent's claim for damages for negligence, alternatively as agents, against former agents, for the plaintiffs, Sears Investment Trust Ltd, Sears Investment Trust Ltd, Sears Group Ltd and Selfridges (Oxford) Ltd.

Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, and Mr Ian Gittinger for the plaintiffs, Mr David Blunt, QC and Mr Jeremy Nicholson for Gerald Eve, the first defendant, were not represented.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that until May 27, 1988 the second plaintiff, the Sears Group Ltd (Sears) had been named Lewis's Ltd and the first defendant, who that day took over that name, had been named Pergade Ltd, changing its name again on March 15, 1989 to Lewis's Group Ltd (LGL).

Sears had occupied a store in Glasgow, paying rates by reference to a rateable value of £1,644 million in the years 1985-6-7-8.

On the instructions of the plaintiffs' parent company, Gerald Eve had until May 3, 1988 pursued on Sears' behalf an appeal against that rateable value. The terms of their agency, agreed in 1984, did not require them, and they had no obligation to take part in the recovery of overpaid rates.

On May 9, 1988 a complex agreement between the plaintiffs and LGL provided for the transfer of the Glasgow store to LGL (and his Lordship held that the right to recover overpaid rates up to that date had not been thereby transferred to LGL).

Also on May 9, by virtue of a telephone conversation between representatives of Gerald Eve and Sears, later supplemented by letter, Sears told Gerald Eve in future to take instructions from a Mr Stuart, a director of LGL, thus terminating Gerald Eve's agency in relation to that store. Thereafter, Gerald Eve had acted in the rating appeal as agents for LGL.

On March 16, 1989 a local valuation panel had allowed that appeal, so that £615,701.91 fell due to be repaid. On April 6 Gerald Eve, on Mr Stuart's instructions, wrote to the rating authority seeking that repayment.

On May 11, a Scottish partner of Gerald Eve, who still acted for Sears in relation to other property, mentioned the success of the appeal to a Sears official, observed that Gerald Eve were pressing for the refund, adding that he "suspected Sears will be due an element of this".

However, Sears had made no request to the rating authority that it should be repaid any of the

rebate by the time that the authority sent its cheque for the whole refund to Mr Stuart of LGL, which duly paid Gerald Eve's fees.

In his Lordship's judgment, Sears' express encouragement of Gerald Eve to seek instructions to act for LGL in relation to the Glasgow store carried by necessary implication an acknowledgment that thereafter Gerald Eve owed LGL all the duties of an agent and had to act on LGL's instructions.

In those circumstances, Sears could no longer claim that Gerald Eve owed it any duty of loyalty; it had to be implied that such duty must attach to the new principal

alone. No agent could be required to serve two masters in the same matter without clear agreement and the knowledge of both principals.

By parity of reasoning Sears' claim in negligence also failed, since it was impossible to hold that Gerald Eve owed a duty of care to Sears, even though at one time its agent, when lawfully acting on behalf of their new client and principal. The action against Gerald Eve was accordingly dismissed.

Solicitors: Tirmuss Sainer & Webb; Berrymans.

Sentence cut

Regina v Bigley (Stephen)

Regina v Bigley (Derek Roy)

Where a defendant's sentence reflected a reduction because of the element of entrapment involved in his commission of an offence, a second defendant, who had been recruited by the first, was also entitled to a similar reduction.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on July 3 in allowing appeals by Stephen Bigley and Derek Roy Bigley against sentences imposed in September 1991 at Carlisle Crown Court (Judge Mahon, QC) for two counts of supplying a Class B drug (amphetamine) for which Stephen Bigley was sentenced to concurrent sentences totalling three years imprisonment, and one count of being concerned in the supply of a

Class B drug (amphetamine) for which Derek Roy Bigley was sentenced to 18 months.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the appellants were involved in supplying a large quantity of amphetamine to an undercover police officer.

There was no doubt that in the case of Stephen Bigley there was evidence of entrapment which the court accepted should be reflected in a reduction in his sentence.

The appropriate reduction was one-third. Accordingly, the sentence of three years imprisonment would be reduced to two years.

The second defendant, who was recruited by his brother, was also entitled to a similar reduction, so that his sentence would be reduced from 18 months imprisonment to 12.

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Mediate and save a million

Frances Gibb on the success of a centre that helps companies to stay out of court and reduce legal costs

British companies are quietly saving a fortune by taking disputes to mediation instead of going to court. The Centre for Dispute Resolution, one of the UK pioneers of mediation, estimates that since its launch with CBI backing 18 months ago, mediation has saved companies more than £30 million in legal costs, quite apart from savings in management time.

The figures will be released this week when the centre gives an update to companies on its work in the fast-growing sphere of alternative dispute resolution. So far, 150 disputes have been referred to the centre, involving a total of £500 million, on anything from copyright to contracts, patents to property and shipping to services.

Alternative dispute resolution, or settling disputes outside the traditional courtroom, is still fairly new in Britain but has become fashionable. It is also welcomed by government ministers who appreciate the cost savings and speed when compared with litigation, and by legal professional bodies.

The centre has enjoyed much success in its short existence. It boasts membership of 245 companies and organisations, including ICI, Reed International, Vickers, Sony and Ciba-Geigy. A wide range of law firms makes up nearly half of the members.

In one recent case, settlement was reached after one day of mediation in a dispute involving £20 million. The case had been set down for an eight-week trial to determine liability over breach of contract and a negligence claim, brought by a manufacturing and distributive company against a product design consultancy.

Dr Karl Mackie, the centre's chief executive, says: "It is really the business equivalent of what ADR does for industrial relations disputes. In business, there are still massive costs in the way disputes are managed, particularly if they end up with litigation. The potential savings are huge."



The centre's work is industry-led. Most of the cases so far have been in the construction industry, followed by commercial disputes. But the centre has also handled disputes in banking, family businesses, intellectual property, sports and local government.

The centre became involved in one £5 million dispute about insurance negligence, which had already been through heavy litigation. Multi-party appeals were cancelled, saving £500,000. In another instance, involving a £1 million construction claim over electrical and mechanical installation, a one-day mediation leading to an amicable settlement saved costs of £300,000. In a third case, mediation in the Middle East settled a joint venture and partnership dispute between a British

contractor and a foreign client. After two days, a £3 million claim was withdrawn, saving both parties £250,000 each.

Most of the claims involve companies. But disputes between individuals have also been settled: a

The centre's work is industry led. Most cases have been in the construction sector and commercial disputes

tenant was rehoused and a council saved £500 when the centre intervened in a tenancy dispute.

This week the centre launches a new fixed-fee scheme. Mediation of disputes involving up to £50,000 will cost only £350-£450 for a day.

The idea is to remove the barrier to mediation by offering an all-in fee, says Dr Mackie. For a dispute involving more than £50,000, the average daily cost is £1,000-£1,500. The aim is to help parties to reach a settlement, which is usually then formalised in a document.

Unlike the courts, the centre does not hand down a binding decision. Settlement has been reached in 20 per cent of cases, and a further 40 per cent are pending. However, once the parties are persuaded to sit down together, the settlement rate is 95 per cent.

The attitude of lawyers is still an obstacle to the centre's progress. Alternative dispute resolution is actively promoted by some firms, such as Turner Kenneth Brown, Manches, Clifford Chance, Rowe & Maw in London, and Dillb Lupton

Broomhead and Brown Jacobson outside, as well as firms in Scotland and Ireland. But many are still reluctant. Although law firms have signed up as backers of the Centre for Dispute Resolution, Dr Mackie suggests that many do so as "defensive marketing".

Firms appreciate that if they can offer the option of alternative resolution (which does not preclude litigation later), then they widen the service they provide, which may mean more satisfied clients. Yet there is "an inevitable tension", says Dr Mackie, for avoiding litigation reduces fees. "It took ten years for this to get off the ground in the States. We are introducing a radical new approach to dispute management, and inevitably there is some reluctance to go down the mediation route. But we feel we have already made pretty significant inroads."

No more easy jobs in industry

The recession is clearly taking its toll on the legal job market. There is now a "grim acceptance" among young solicitors of the realities of the job market, and a recognition that many of them will have to abandon the law, says legal recruitment consultant Simon Hankey of the Robert Walters Agency. In general, it is the newly qualified lawyers and those with up to three years' experience who are being hit hardest, but not even partners are immune.

The most telling result, however, of the sharp drop in opportunities is that recruitment by companies has tailed off sharply. Mr Hankey surveyed 600 industrial and commercial organisations which used to recruit lawyers regularly, and found that half of them have taken on no fresh staff for more than a year; nor do they expect their activities to pick up for at least another 18 months. A

quarter of companies have reduced their legal teams in the past two years. Competition for vacancies in industry and commerce, which once offered a lifeline for the lawyer who had failed to find a niche in a partnership, is now becoming just as tough.

Employers themselves are benefiting considerably. From being in a seller's market in the 1980s, they now have the chance to be more precise and specific about their needs. Rather than choosing the first candidate who looks reasonably suitable, they are waiting until exactly the right person appears.

"Employers are looking for solicitors who want to make a positive move into industry, rather than treating it as a career filler," says Mr Hankey. "And they want people with broadly based legal skills, rather than anything too specialist."

Paradoxically, the more blue chip your pedigree, the less well it may be regarded. Solicitors who have trained in the largest firms are regarded with caution, because they may already have become narrow in outlook. Also,

their client contact may have been limited. Instead, companies tend to favour the lawyer who has trained with a good quality, second-tier City firm.

"As service departments within large organisations, lawyers within industry must go out and sell themselves to their internal clients," says Mr Hankey. "You have to be good at establishing relationships with your non-lawyer colleagues, and be able to interpret very quickly how you can help them. If your experience has been as a backroom person in a big City practice, you may not find that very easy."

Women are being conspicuously successful in the transition into industry. The suspicion that they face barriers to partnership predisposes many of them to look more positively at company work in the first place. And many of them are good at establishing co-operative internal relationships. "Our experience is that more women than men have successfully moved across into companies," says Mr Hankey. However, self-confidence and presentation skills are essential in an effort to cut costs, in-house lawyers are being required to take on increasing amounts of work. In negotiations, they will need to come up with workable legal solutions quickly, rather than producing a series of finely balanced options.

When companies do recruit, they generally offer more attractive financial deals than in the past. Financial institutions, for example, usually offer a package of benefits better than those of many City firms.

Perhaps the biggest shock facing lawyers moving from private practice into industry is that they no longer enjoy any special status. The smugness of many partners in private practice simply will not wash in business. The lawyer is just one of a number of professionals, and he must prove to his employer and colleagues the value of his contribution.

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SQUASH RACKETS

Omission inspires Harris to score emphatic victory

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN JOHANNESBURG

DEL Harris secured a straight games victory over the local favourite in the first round of the world open championship here yesterday, and then declared himself determined to embarrass the English Squash Rackets Association (ESRA) by playing as well as possible in South Africa.

Ranked third on the latest England list, and one place behind Peter Marshall, the British champion, on the world list, Harris, 23, seeded tenth here, has been excluded from the England squad for a three-match series against South Africa immediately after the world open.

"The really infuriating part about it is the fact that I was partly responsible for putting the series together," Harris said after defeating Craig van der Wath 15-9, 15-7, 15-13 in 41 minutes. "I came out here at the end of May with Chris Walker, joining Tony Hands, who arrived even earlier to acclimatise. We put the plan together with Sue Cogswell, of Squash South Africa, with the idea of playing in it ourselves."

Harris said that Cogswell, a former England international but a long-time resident of South Africa, contacted the ESRA, which insisted the team should be an official selection.

"The next thing I heard was a rumour that neither Tony nor myself were going to be in the team," Harris said. He rang Andrew Shelley at the ESRA, and says he was told he had been overlooked in the selection made by Jonah Barrington and Paul Wright, the

national coaches, of a squad comprising Peter Marshall, Simon Parke, Chris Walker and Philip Whitlock, which will be managed by Stuart Courtney, a former international and a member of the SRA council.

Harris has been a central part of England teams coached by Barrington and managed by Wright since he won the world junior championship under their guidance in 1988. His unexpected defeat last May by Colin Keith, the Scotland second string, was a vital element in England's first defeat at the semi-final stage of a European team championship.

"Perhaps that is why they have dropped me for this series," Harris said. "Whatever the case, I aim to prove a thing or two here."

His task could hardly be more difficult, with Rodney Martin, of Australia, his scheduled second-round opponent. "I have beaten Rodney two or three times, although I have to admit he has had the better of our record. This would be the perfect time and place to beat him again," Harris said.

Certainly, the determined victory by Harris provided a much needed lift for British spirits here.

Simon Parke, 20, the Yorkshire player who succeeded Harris as world junior champion and was named for the international matches in Durban, East London and Cape Town, was roundly defeated later by Austin Adarraga, a Spanish qualifier.

Adarraga trained with the Australian Institute of Squash, but returned to live in his father's country after a horrifying motor accident from which recovery took the better part of two years. There was much Australian support around his match.

Parke was seeded thirteenth here, perhaps ominously, and was fancied to trouble Ross Norman in the second round, and perhaps even for Jahangir Khan later on.

In fact, he failed almost completely to contain the unrestrained attack from Adarraga, who defeated Craig Wapnick of South Africa, in the qualifying finals and dispatched Parke 15-10, 15-9, 15-5 in 54 minutes.

Adarraga may have taken heart from the success of Mark Carlyn, an old friend from the Australian Institute, who launched a similar display of stroke invention against Jason Nicolle, the sixteenth seed and another loser in the European match against Scotland, to win 15-4, 15-10, 11-15, 14-17, 15-4.

Adrian Davies, the Welsh No. 1, lost in typically argumentative style, 15-9, 10-15, 15-12, 14-17, 15-10, to Norman, the 1986 world champion seeded seventh, and Danny Meddings, of Surrey, went down in straight games to the fifth seed, Brett Martin of Australia.

RESULTS: First round: R Norman (NZ) vs A Davies (Wales), 15-4, 10-15, 15-12, 14-17, 15-10; M Carlyn (Aus) vs J Nicolle (Eng), 15-4, 10-15, 11-15, 14-17, 15-4; B Martin (Aus) vs D Meddings (Eng), 15-11, 15-9, 15-8; D Hearn (Eng) vs C van der Wath (SA), 15-9, 15-7, 15-14; A Adarraga (Sp) vs S Parke (Eng), 15-10, 15-9, 15-5.

MOTOR RALLYING

Kankkunen opens way for Auriol

Perth: Didier Auriol looked set to win the Australian rally ahead of his Lancia teammate, Juha Kankkunen, after the Finn fell behind with broken suspension and a jammed wheel during the third leg yesterday.

The Frenchman, eight points ahead of Carlos Sainz, of Spain, will also increase his lead in the world drivers' championship with a sixth rally win this year.

Kankkunen, winner of all three previous Australian rallies, fell 2min 39sec behind after his Lancia Integral was almost crippled by a rock during the 24th stage on dirt roads 60km from Perth. The world champion cracked his rear suspension and lost two minutes completing the stage with a jammed wheel.

Sainz is third in his Toyota Celica, ten seconds behind Kankkunen going into today's final four stages of the 35-stage race.

RESULTS: Third day (day 31 of 35) special stages: 1, D Auriol (Fr), Lancia Integral, 4hr 29min 39sec; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Integral, 4hr 29min 39sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica, 4hr 29min 39sec; 4, J Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Integral, 4hr 29min 39sec; 5, R Dettmer (Ger), Mitsubishi Galant, 4hr 29min 39sec; 6, D Dettmer (Ger), Mitsubishi Galant, 4hr 29min 39sec.

FOOTBALL

Security headache for World Cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

New York: World Cup organisers said yesterday they will attempt to prevent supporters with a history of violence from entering the United States during the 1994 tournament in an effort to combat hooliganism.

The officials also said they were considering the possibility of segregating fans by nationality inside the nine stadiums to be used for the 52-game tournament. They have ruled out the possibility of a large military force to provide security, but intended to have fast-response teams available in reserve.

"This is America. This is not a police state and we're not going to turn it into one," Alan Rothenberg, chairman of World Cup USA 1994, said.

Rothenberg said security would be the most expensive item for the tournament.

Edgar N. Best was hired yesterday as senior vice-president for security. He was director of security for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, overseeing an \$80 million budget.

"I'm not guaranteeing that we won't have an incident,"

Best said. "It would be foolish to do that. We will not be able to anticipate everything. This is a strange world."

At the 1990 World Cup in Italy, up to 4,000 police and military personnel, many of them carrying machine guns, were used. There were three minor incidents, all outside the stadiums, but tear gas was used.

Supporters from England, Germany and Holland have caused problems at European matches, vandalising town centres, ferries and trains during drunken rampages. European police identified many of the troublemakers and prevented most of them from going to the 1990 tournament in Italy.

Best said he anticipated hooligans would attempt to come to the US tournament scheduled for June 17 to July 17, 1994. He consulted with European police when he attended the 1990 World Cup.

It has not been decided whether to use fencing to separate fans from the field and from each other, Best added.



Penn brings England equality

Rising fortunes: Jo Sladen, right, strives for possession against the Canadian, Michelle Gisinger, as the Young England lacrosse team yesterday held the experienced Canadian women's touring side to a 9-9 draw in the first game of the English leg of their British tour at Milton Keynes (Peter Tadow writes).

Young England had the

edge, leading by one goal through the game before going behind until the final stages when Bella Penn, of North Territory, scored the two goals needed for England's parity. Gemma Lowth scored four, Kate Hollings two and Clare Taylor one.

Canada, still snarling from three defeats in Scotland, hoped for better things in

England. Yesterday's draw was a shock before meeting England Seniors at Berkhamsted tomorrow and Kingston-upon-Thames on Friday.

All the leading lacrosse countries have their eyes set on the world championships in Scotland in August and Canada have derived little comfort from this month's tour of Britain.

BOXING

Duff delivers offer to Eubank

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICKEY Duff, the London promoter, has offered Chris Eubank £200,000 to defend his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title

against Herol Graham, the British middleweight champion, at Wembley, if the Sheffield boxer wins his title defence against Frank Grant at Leeds tomorrow.

"It is a very good offer," Duff said, "but if Barry Hearn (Eubank's promoter) doesn't want me to promote it, but wants to promote it himself, he

can have the fight if he pays Graham £10,000 training expenses."

Graham said: "I want to fight Eubank because I don't want to retire as the best middleweight in Britain never to have won a world title."

Frank Warren, the promoter, yesterday made his last move to bring together Colin McMillan and Paul Hodgkinson in a world featherweight unification bout.

Warren offered a joint £400,000 purse, plus a

£25,000 bonus to the winner, and appealed to Hodgkinson's manager, B.J. Eastwood, to get the bout on "for the good of British boxing."

Warren said: "The fight is only worth what it can generate. We have got to have cash common sense in these days of recession. It's twice what Paul has earned before. If he wants to fight on neutral territory, it could go to Birmingham, and I'm prepared to co-promote with Eastwood to get the fight I'd most like to see."

GOLF

Roe relishes role of a seriously successful golfer

FROM MEL WEBB IN VERSAILLES

YOU could tell that winning the Lancôme Trophy was not likely to change Mark Roe's outlook on life fewer than 60 seconds after his behind hit the seat for his post-victory interview on Sunday.

"Mark is this the biggest win of your life?" came the question. Fifty pairs of lips in the room mouthed the words. "Of course it is; don't ask such blooming daft questions."

Roe, on the other hand, appeared to accord his interlocutor the sort of mature reflection that the question definitely did not deserve, took one more reflective breath, then replied without allowing himself the merest hint of a smile. "Well, I did win a couple of Sheffield and District Alliances last winter. This was Mark Roe Mark I, all right. Why worry about a Mark II version when the original is still capable of producing high-quality material like that?"

No, victory — he won £79,000 at St-Nom-la-Brette for his second Volvo Tour win — will not change Mark Roe one little bit. And for that we can all breathe a hearty vote of thanks.

Roe is a one-off. A 6ft son of Sheffield who now lives in Dronfield, in Derbyshire, this pencil-thin man whose unruly blond locks and a face on which a smile is never more than a nano-second away

make him look years younger than his 29 years, is a can't-help-it joker off the fairways. Even on the practice ground he is not above the odd fourth form riddle now and then.

But watch him on the golf course, anywhere from the first tee to his last stroke on the 18th green, and you will have some trouble believing you are watching the same man.

Because, and make no mistake about this, Mark Roe is seriously devoted to his job, and once out on the course the fierce and committed competitor that is never far from the surface consigns the Mr Hyde that is a separate but inextinguishable part of his character to the locker room, there to wait until Dr Jekyll rejoins him a few hours later.

Roe came to golf comparatively late in life. He was a top-class high-board diver in his teens, had bright things forecast of him, and might have been lost to the game of golf until one day he had a serious accident when practising that most gymnastic of sporting disciplines.

The back injury he sustained then forced him out of his first love and into the siren embrace of golf. The creaky back still bothers him to this day, and may indeed force him out of the big-money Piaget Open at Royal Zoute in Belgium this week.

Roe was once a dasher to end them all, scurrying round the course like a demented ant on speed. He claims he has matured and slowed down. Matured he may well have done — marriage to his wife, Jane, in 1989, might have had something to do with that — but slowed down he almost certainly has not.

Take the 18th hole of the last round at St Nom on Sunday, for example. There he was with a two-stroke lead, all but there, time to smell the autumn leaves around him and savour the reception he was getting from the slightly biased, seen-it-all-before Parisien gallery, you might have thought.

So where was he? Twenty-five yards in front of his two playing partners, that's where, and by the time they reached the green he was already stalking his putt, striding hither and thither, assessing, wondering if he could finish it all on this most testing of par-three finishing holes with a big number and a birdie two.

As it happened, he took two more and finished his act with a rock-solid par. Then it was off to the waiting press corps.

"When did the pressure of today first hit you, Mark?" one of them asked. "About 12.30 last night," came the reply, twinkling-eyed. Mark Adrian Roe, professional golfer and full-time character, for all our sakes, don't ever change.

Charity benefits from Floyd's senior victory

Indianapolis: Raymond Floyd became the first golfer to record victories in both regular and senior PGA tour events in the same year when he won the GTE North Classic on Sunday.

Floyd, 50, announced that he would donate his \$67,500 winner's cheque to the PGA tour's hurricane relief fund.

Floyd, who comes from North Carolina and now lives in North Miami Beach, Florida, said he discussed the donation with his wife Maria after Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of Florida and Louisiana.

"Thirty miles from where we live, the eye of that hurricane went through, leaving unfathomable destruction," Floyd said.

Floyd, who won the Donald Ryder Open in March on the

regular tour, made it clear that he is not ready to consign himself solely to the senior tour events.

"I haven't switched tours, I've just come over for four weeks. I committed early on to support the [senior] tour. It's important to get new players with name recognition, to get new blood on the tour."

Floyd said his decision was not based on the theory that he would fare better against older competitors.

"My overall game is as good as it's ever been, believe it or not. I'm not playing golf for monetary reasons."

Floyd added that the only decision he has made concerning his itinerary for 1993 is that he will compete in the major tournaments in both tours and defend the GTE North Classic title.

CRICKET: NEWCOMERS REFLECT ON A SEASON WHICH ENDED IN DISAPPOINTMENT

Durham catch up with reality

BY PETER BALL

BACK in April, Durham embarked on their first season as a first-class county with high hopes in front of a euphoric crowd of 6,000. Last Tuesday, 300 watched the last rites at a windswept Low Fell as their team was once again outclassed.

Durham plunged to their tenth defeat and finished bottom of the championship, 36 points behind the seventeenth club, Worcestershire. "We hadn't realised the gulf between a minor county and the first-class game," Don Robson, the Durham chairman, was reported to have said. Geoff Cook, the director of cricket, and his captain, David Graveney, had few such illusions but, for a time, the euphoria seemed well-founded.

Durham were briefly third in the championship and reached the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy, their second-round win over Middlesex standing out as one of the performances of the season. But Dean Jones, the mainstay of their batting,

missed the quarter-final before heading back home to join the Australian team, injuries took their toll, and the decline was swift.

"Expectations were raised beyond realism after the first four weeks," Cook said. "To be itinerant, without a home ground, in your first year was stretching our resources desperately and the coaching network has to be refined and enlarged. If this area wants to produce first-class players, it has to be more specialised."

In the long term, Durham's future seems assured. "To see 800 to 900 turn up to watch our second team play makes you realise you're sitting in an area of massive potential," Cook said. But for the time being the building process goes on.

Graveney, who began the season looking forward to "a great adventure", is unrepentant. "I didn't expect the job to be any easier than it was," he insisted, "but in terms of ability, a mid-table place was not too far out of reach." As the season progressed, though, with injuries and weariness setting in, age and

inexperience told against them.

"We had the situation where we played very well early on," he reflected. "Every one of the young players who came into the side did well and that was backed up by Botham challenging for an England place."

As the pressure told, however, the young players found themselves too much in the firing line. Jones's departure was exacerbated by the fact that Botham's edge had worn off after his early relish for a new challenge had briefly overcome the aging process.

Botham had filled seats and sold memberships but his contribution in the latter half of the season was a disappointment to supporters. "Ian is struggling," Cook agreed. "You've almost got to predict his good days and capitalise on them."

Other injuries also raised the question of the team's fitness and Graveney will make physical fitness a priority when the team begins preparations next month. Yet Cook still believes that physical fitness was only part of the

problem. "Our biggest failing this year was an inability to stay the pace," he said.

How Hutton, an opening batsman, Wood, a powerful fast bowler, and Henderson, an all-rounder, respond to their difficult introductions to the first-class game will determine Durham's success next season. So will the continuing enthusiasm of the core of experienced players. "Morale has stood up remarkably well in the circumstances," Graveney said.



Graveney: unrepentant

Hemmings decides to join Sussex

EDDIE Hemmings, the 43-year-old former England off-spinner, has joined Sussex on a two-year contract after being released by Nottinghamshire.

Hemmings, who has appeared in 16 Tests during 13 years with Nottinghamshire, is the oldest player on the county circuit but last played for England only two years ago.

Meanwhile, Hampshire were ready to sign Martin Jean-Jacques, from Derbyshire yesterday.

Marlyn Moxon, the Yorkshire captain, set out on a 300 mile walk round the Broad Acres yesterday. (Martin Scarby writes).

Peking has its doubts

Peking's sports facilities, many of them developed for the 1990 Asian Games, were inadequate for the Olympics, the Beijing Youth News said yesterday in an article on the city's prospects of being given the 2000 Games. It noted that at next year's vote Europe will have 40 votes and Asia 20.

McKay's trophy

Cycling: Second place in the 106-mile Solihull Classic on Sunday enabled Mark McKay, of Northampton, to win the season-long road racing competition, the Star Trophy. His 50 points placed him ahead of John Tanner (38) and John Charlesworth (32).

Rally death

Motor rallying: A Chinese official became the third fatality of the Paris-Moscow-Beijing rally yesterday when his vehicle hit an unlit lorry parked in the middle of the road near Shanshan, the starting point for the sixteenth stage, the first stage in the Gobi desert.

Female touch

Shooting: Corporal Julia

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leigh reject approach for Topping

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CASTLEFORD yesterday placed Graham Southernwood, the Great Britain under-21 hooker, on the transfer list at £50,000 after having a player-exchange approach rejected by Leigh for the utility back, Paul Topping, who is now interesting Salford.

Ian Lucas, the Great Britain and Wigan forward, is likely to miss the home game against Widnes on Friday after injuring ligaments in the back of his knee during Sunday's win at Wakefield Trinity, and could be missing for several weeks if an examination tomorrow should pinpoint more serious damage.

The British Amateur Rugby League Association has set aside its threat of legal action against the Rugby Football League and has established a new negotiating committee to try to settle the long-running and increasingly bitter dispute over which body, amateur or professional, should control youth rugby.



ham's push-and-run team of the early Fifties and Nottingham Forest's cup-winning run of 1959, came from the days when inside forwards such as Shackleton, Carter, Mannion, and he could, as the saying was, make the ball talk. By only a year or so, he missed the liberation of wages, and remained resentful of the riches being harvested by the new generation. He would show Coates what skill was.

Taking the still shy youngster aside at Tottenham's "laboratory" training ground at Chesham — subsequently sold for the club's financial improvement, and look where they are now — Bailey charged him in during a run of ball, and 11 yards later, against the crossbar, Coates miserably failed to emulate the older man.



"It's difficult to blame man-
agement," Sir Stanley says.

Matthews makes the point that the excitement at contemporary football is often as much dependent on the spectators as the players. It is the spectators' thirst for thrills that creates the immersion of

On Saturday against Leeds United, attempting to cross a ball from a free position on the right for Southampton 20 yards out, Dixon fired the ball high into the crowd as though taking a goal kick: here is a player promoted by circumstance, run out of his place.

Graham Taylor appears to have taken the view that there is no point even looking for subtlety. He still seems not to understand that while good players have some slight chance of playing as a unit without practice together, fitness fanatics are totally dependent on familiarity with each other rather than skill to bind them together. Every team change Taylor makes is a further step down the road to ruin.

Graham faces bold cup challenge from former club

Timely return: Hillier replaces Jensen in the Arsenal line-up after suspension

Patient Platt takes his chance with goal for Juventus

Further north, **Hamburg** SV dismissed their coach, Egon Coordes, yesterday, blaming him for a dismal start to the season. A 2-1 home defeat by SC Karlsruhe at the

After his side's 4-2 defeat at Aston Villa last Saturday, Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, must be dreading a slip-up at home to Chesterfield, of the third division, who are unbeaten in their last seven games. Like Wimbledon, Liverpool lost to Peterborough in last season's League Cup.

Barceloneta 4, Espanol 1, Celta 2, P.º
Zaragoza 4, Real Oviedo 0 Athletic Bilbao
4, Rayo Vallecano 2 Deportivo La Coruña
2, Osasuna 1, Albacete 1, Real Sociedad
1 Sporting Gijón 0, Real Madrid 0 P.º
Burgos 0, Teniente 3, Valencia 1, Sevilla
Logroñés 0, Celta Vigo 1. Leading posi-

Middlesbrough lose out to Keegan

Newcastle invest £700,000 gate takings for Lee

By LOUISE TAYLOR

NEWCASTLE United yesterday completed the signing of Robert Lee, from Charlton Athletic, for £700,000. Less than 48 hours after rejecting Premier League football and a move to Middlesbrough on the grounds that he and his wife did not want to live in the North East, Lee rapidly revised his opinion.

After travelling to Newcastle to talk to Kevin Keegan, the United manager, the right-side forward or midfielder player — who had made it clear that he was keen on staying in London and joining West Ham United — decided that northern life might not be so bad after all.

The prospect of settling in a football-obsessed city and playing for the present first division leaders, who boast the League's only 100 per cent record, clearly proved persuasive.

As did the charisma of Keegan. Lee, 26, a former England Under-21 international who joined Charlton from school, is the second player covered by Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, but captured by Keegan. Gavin Peacock, the Newcastle midfielder, rejected a £1 million move to Middlesbrough this summer to stay at St James's Park.

Lawrence, who is aggrieved at Newcastle's top billing in

the North East when his team are sixth in the Premier League, said: "Not many people turn me down."

The Middlesbrough manager, who managed Lee at Charlton, had been planning on recruiting him for over a year.

Lee, who has signed a three-year contract, said: "I can understand if Lennie is feeling a bit bemused. I hope there are no hard feelings. But he put me on the spot and wanted me to sign straight away. Lennie was not prepared to wait. I just hope he will wish me well for the future."

"Newcastle's interest was flattering and I just felt they were right for me. A telling factor was that Kevin Keegan used to be my idol. It had to be a big club to tempt me out of London."

Keegan said: "As far as we are concerned we do not feel we have poached Robert from Middlesbrough. We did not make our move until we saw that his proposed transfer to Ayresome Park had fallen through. There is no animosity between us and Middlesbrough. In many ways Newcastle is more accessible to London. We are on the main railway line and there are more flights from Newcastle than Teesside airport."

"It is thanks to our support-

ers filling the ground every home game that we have been able to buy Robert. We put all our gate money on the table. But he will be a valuable player for us."

Even so, this transfer market policy represents a turnaround from last season, when Newcastle were reportedly £6.5 million in debt and facing financial ruin. Since then, Sir John Hall, the man behind the Gateshead Metro Centre, has taken charge and United, although still in the red, are being allowed to spend in the hope that success will lead to solvency.

Lee is expected to make his debut in the second round, first leg Coca-Cola Cup tie at home to Middlesbrough tomorrow night. He will soon discover that life at low-profile Charlton Athletic is light years removed from that at one of football's strongholds.

Rob Jones, Liverpool's England international right back, will resume light training today after an operation for shin splints.

Bryan Robson, the Manchester United captain, failed to prove his fitness for a reserve match at Rotherham last night. Robson, who is suffering from hamstring trouble, last played in the United first team in April.

David Miller, page 33

FA stop BSkyB's attempt to screen Gascoigne's return

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE Football Association has blocked an attempt by BSkyB to televise tomorrow night's match between Lazio and Tottenham Hotspur in Rome. The fixture, which could feature Paul Gascoigne's return to top-class action, takes place on a night when there is a Coca-Cola Cup programme in England.

Trevor Phillips, commercial director of the FA, said yesterday: "BSkyB did not have the courtesy to talk to me about this. Why should we allow a

meaningless friendly from Italy to be shown on a night when we have got to protect domestic crowds. We cannot allow them to be damaged."

"BSkyB have threatened an injunction and I expect a solicitor's letter. But I do not see why football should be controlled by television. The one thing BSkyB has done is unite the FA's of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. That has not been achieved for a thousand years. The irony is that I have

been very supportive of BSkyB and am still negotiating their television contract. But they have been very insensitive on this issue. I was happy to allow them to show it live if it was moved to Thursday or on deferred transmission after 10.30pm on Wednesday night. We were prepared to make concessions."

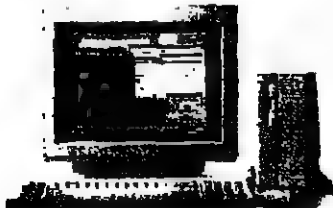
On Sunday, BSkyB attracted 465,000 nationwide viewers for the Premier League match between Manchester City and Chelsea, compared with the £70,000 from the South East who watched the first division fixture between West Ham United and Derby County on London Weekend Television. Channel 4's coverage of Italian football was watched by a national audience of almost two million.

West Ham blamed the cameras for their lowest crowd for 36 years but, overall, the Football League is doing rather better than the Premier League at the turnstiles. Premier League attendances dropped by 11.7 per cent on last year's old first division during the first six weeks of this season. By contrast League attendances have risen by an average 0.5 per cent.

Premier League gates are averaging just 19,895. That is the first time in five seasons that the figure for football's top division has dropped below 20,000 and compares to 22,522 a year ago.

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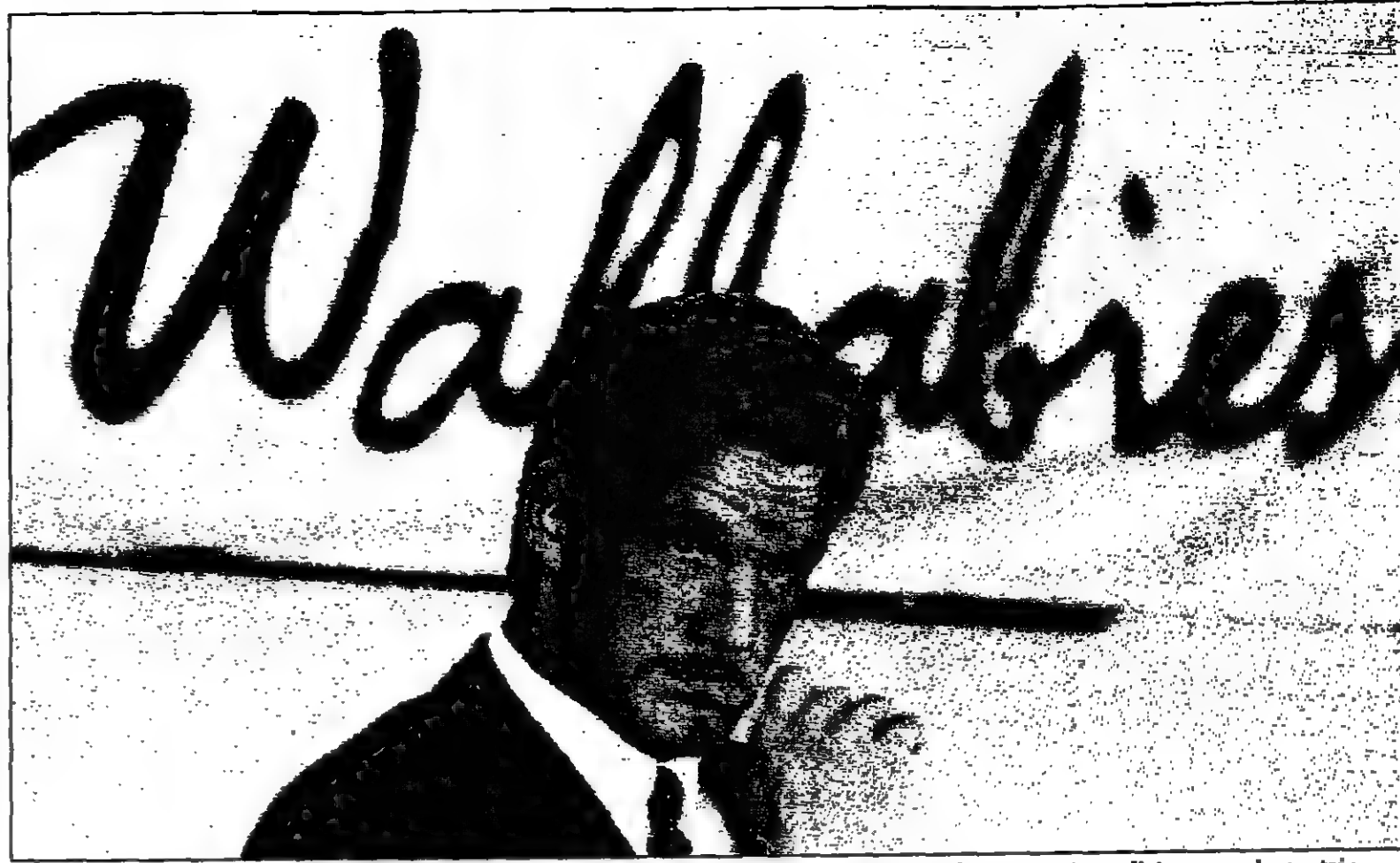
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By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH sports officials are hoping that the government will bow quickly to a European Community directive to scrap VAT on voluntary organisations, so bringing relief to amateur clubs and organisations which have been struggling to survive the recession.

As sport tries to assess the impact of the pound's devaluation on its finances, the Community is renewing its attack on the British regulation that non-profit making organisations should pay VAT, unlike any other European country.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), said yesterday: "VAT should not apply in these instances in Britain. We believe that UK ministers have never been given the true facts on this



Taking over at the top: Lynagh fields questions at a press conference yesterday after his appointment as Australia's new rugby captain

Lynagh to lead touring Australians

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Lynagh, the world record points scorer in international rugby union, will captain Australia on their 13-match tour of Ireland and Wales which starts next month. He was named yesterday to take over from the man he has partnered in 47 internationals, Nick Farr-Jones.

Lynagh, who has led his country twice before, emerged ahead of Phil Kearns, who is named vice-captain, and Peter Slattery. There were ample considerations for looking elsewhere to relieve the team's goal kicker and playmaker of the game were in his favour.

"I was disappointed in 1988 when Nick got the job ahead of me, but I'm very proud to be there now," Lynagh, 28, said. He has appeared in 59 internationals, the first of them eight years ago against Fiji, and since then has recorded a mammoth 760 points for his country.

His tour party includes three newcomers to the national squad, Damien Smith, Anthony Elert and Michael Brial, while four of those who toured in South Africa last

month are not required: Farr-Jones and Tommy Lawton have retired from international rugby, and the two props, Andrew Blakes and Matthew Ryan, have been overtaken by the experienced Cameron Lillicrap and Dan Crowley.

The omission of Blakes came as a surprise, since he looked a formidable competitor in South Africa, but the two Queensland props, Lillicrap in particular, will add to a pack of forwards which still wears a surprisingly youthful air.

Lillicrap toured Britain with

the 1984 Wallabies, alongside Lynagh, but his career has been plagued by serious injuries.

Smith, the new wing, has been a regular for Queensland this season. At 23, he has recovered from badly breaking an arm two years ago, and his long-striding style should make him an impressive sight, given firm grounds.

Elert, the reserve scrum half to Slattery, and Brial, the back-row forward, scored tries for Sydney in their 40-17 defeat of New Zealand in July and have played for New

South Wales. Brial was one of five players injured during the notorious defeat by the All Blacks early in their tour of Australia.

The tour party will go into camp on October 6 and leave three days later. They play two internationals, against Ireland, on October 31, and Wales, on November 21, and conclude against the Barbarians, on November 28 at Twickenham, a match which is already sold out.

TOUR PARTY: Backs: T. Elert (NSW), M. Brial (NSW), D. Camrose (NSW), D. Jones (NSW), P. Carozza (Queensland), D. Smith (Queensland), A.

Herbert (Queensland), T. Horan (Queensland), J. Little (Queensland), P. Tait (NSW), M. Lynagh (Queensland), P. Kari (Queensland), S. Slattery (Queensland), A. Elert (NSW), P. Kearns (Queensland).

Forwards: D. Crowley (Queensland), A. Daly (NSW), C. Lillicrap (Queensland), R. McDermott (NSW), P. Kearns (NSW), D. Huxford (Queensland), J. Biles (Queensland), R. McColl (Queensland), G. Morgan (Queensland), W. Weir (NSW), M. Brier (NSW), T. Coker (Queensland), W. O'Brien (NSW), D. Wilson (Queensland), T. Gavin (NSW), S. Scott (Queensland).

FRONT ROW: Col 17: v Leicester (Dublin), 31: v Munster (Dublin), 34: v Ulster (Belfast), 27: v Connacht (Galway), 31: v Ireland (Dublin), Nov 4: v Swansea, 7: v Wales (Cardiff), 11: v North, 14: v Ireland, 17: v Warrumbungle (Bathurst), 21: v Wales (Cardiff), 24: v Welsh Students (Rhodes), 28: v Barbarians (Twickenham).

Old Blues survive to draw Blackheath

EIGHT of the 13 second-division clubs which entered the second round of the Pilkington Cup yesterday were treated to home ties when the draw was made at Twickenham, among them three former holders of the national knockout trophy, Coventry, Bedford and Moseley (David Hands writes). A fourth previous cup winner, Newcastle Gosforth, must play away at Towstrians.

Askeans, victors against Ruislip over the weekend, found themselves the odd man out among the 17 southern clubs by being drawn, to even up numbers, in the

northern section; however, they do not face a demanding journey, being required to go only as far north as Bedford when the second round is played on November 7.

Only one of the nine newcomers to this season's competition survived the weekend: Old Blues, who qualified as losing Surrey Cup finalists and, having disposed of Westcombe Park in the first round, now play on their own Mospur Park ground against Blackheath.

"In all honesty, we hoped to get Richmond at home because we have six ex-Richmond players," John Wil-

liams, their chairman of rugby, said. "But Blackheath will do very nicely as an alternative. I would dearly love to see the faces of the Blackheath boys when they arrive because we are rebuilding our clubhouse and it rains in the away changing room."

Old Blues play in London. Two (South), four divisions below Blackheath, but have the experience of such players as John Cullen, the former Wasps and Richmond scrum half, to fall back on.

Bradford and Bingley's reward for an excellent 23-9 win over Aspatia is an all-Yorkshire tie against Wakefield.

This is only Bradford's second season in the cup, the first having been as far back as 1974-5; they came through to qualify this season as losing finalists in the Yorkshire Cup to Harrogate, who themselves have the dubious privilege of a visit to Moseley.

SECOND ROUND DRAW (matches to be played on November 7): North: Tring v Bedford; Old Blues v Askeans; Coventry v Harrogate; Lifford v Worcester; Wakefield v Bradford and Bingley; Bedford v Askeans; Towstrians v Newcastle Gosforth; Moseley v Brough Park; Worcester v Nottingham; Fylde v Leeds; Moseley v Harrogate; South: Richmond v Salisbury; Exeter v Bath; Old Blues v Blackheath; Tabern v High Wycombe; Rosslyn Park v Plymouth Albion; Bridgwater and Abdon v Redruth; Harley v London Welsh; Lymington v Cullinston.

Maradona transfer talks resume

DIEGO Maradona's on-off efforts to transfer from Napoli to the Spanish club, Sevilla, may be completed this week after all.

Although the move has been threatening to collapse for almost a week, the two clubs were due to resume discussions today in Zurich.

The influence of FIFA, football's governing body, is likely to have helped both clubs decide to reopen talks. The game's world governing body has supported Maradona's efforts to return to the game after completing a 15-month suspension for failing a drugs test and the negotiations have been held at its Swiss headquarters.

The announcement that FIFA has brought both sides to the table followed a turbulent week of brinkmanship in efforts to arrange Maradona's transfer from Italy to Spain.

On Thursday, Maradona claimed he was retiring from the game because the deal had not already been done. On Friday, his agent said the deal had to be completed by yesterday evening before Maradona returned to Argentina. The announcement of the new talks has clearly superseded both statements.

Confusion appears to be the name of this particular game. Italian reports say Napoli rejected a Sevilla offer of £2.5 million; sources in Spain say the figure, which included a contribution from Maradona's own company, was nearer £5 million. Marcellis, mean-

while, are understood to have offered £5.5 million, as have Real Betis, Sevilla's "second" club.

European football's governing body, UEFA, has upheld a 4-1 victory by Slovan Bratislava, of Czechoslovakia, over Ferencvaros, of Hungary, in a European Cup first round first leg tie last week. The Hungarians had protested that the result of the game was invalid because of disruption after incidents involving police and Ferencvaros supporters.

However, UEFA's control and disciplinary commission has rejected the protest, saying the incidents took place off the pitch and did not influence the outcome of the game. Both teams, however, have been fined about £6,000.

Goram plans to make amends in semi-final

RANGERS aim to learn from their mistakes of 12 months ago when they face St Johnstone for a place in the Skol Cup final tonight.

The Ibrox side, finalists five times in the past six years and winners on four occasions, paid the penalty for complacency at Hampden Park last season when unfancied Hibernian won 1-0 and went on to beat Dumbfries in the final.

A year later, Rangers are back at Hampden with a determined glint in their eyes. Their goalkeeper, Andy Goram, who moved from Hibernian to Rangers just prior to the start of last season, admitted: "I left Hibs to win

trophies with Rangers — and my old club went and won the first of the season. It made me look a bit daft."

Goram made amends in the championship and Scottish Cup, but desperately wants a Skol Cup medal to complete his collection. "St Johnstone will be difficult opponents and if we have any negative thoughts we'll be in trouble. However, it's up to us to be positive and let them worry about us."

Mark Hateley, who missed Saturday's win over Heart of Midlothian with a foot injury, may miss the game while St Johnstone's Icelandic forward, Gudmundur Torfason, is also doubtful.

Clubs stand by for VAT burden to be scrapped

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH sports officials are hoping that the government will bow quickly to a European Community directive to scrap VAT on voluntary organisations, so bringing relief to amateur clubs and organisations which have been struggling to survive the recession.

As sport tries to assess the impact of the pound's devaluation on its finances, the Community is renewing its attack on the British regulation that non-profit making organisations should pay VAT, unlike any other European country.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), said yesterday: "VAT should not apply in these instances in Britain. We believe that UK ministers have never been given the true facts on this

subject, but have always received misleading information."

"At the moment, these serious breaches of community law have caused great harm to sport and recreation here and to the contribution these bodies make to the prowess of British sport in general."

Lawson added that the "pinch of the recession" was being felt at local level, with the burden of rate charges increasing. Despite the government being prepared to meet 75 per cent of rate relief given to voluntary sports clubs, many local authorities are still not prepared to give this concession.

Burdened with VAT and increasing rates, many clubs have been struggling to break even, because there is a limit on the level of subscriptions people are prepared to pay. Disposable income has dropped and this has led to

some decline in money-making items like bingo and scratch cards, on which many clubs rely for funds.

The problems of the recession are not just confined to small organisations. Rick Parry, the chief executive of the FA Premier League, described

the financial situation among leading clubs as "tight". The two main difficulties confronting them are implementing the Taylor report and also coping with the recession, the significance of which, he believed, had been dwarfed by the need for new safety measures and all-seat stadiums.

Although Premier League attendances have dropped by 11.7 per cent in the first six weeks of this season, compared with the same period of the Football League first division last year, he thought that there were extenuating circumstances and that football attendances had "just about escaped unscathed" from the recession.

With Aldershot and Maidstone United having gone bankrupt this year, the Football League clubs, almost all of which are in the red, are more precariously placed.

Newcastle United is £6.5 million in the red and Doncaster Rovers and Northampton Town are in danger.

However, a League spokesman said: "There are no other clubs that are critical at the moment. Attendances are, so far, up on last season when the combined attendances for the old second, third and fourth divisions reached 10 million, compared to nine million for the old first division."

Although the government has relaxed its insistence on all-seat stadiums for the bottom two divisions, ground improvements to meet other safety features are still the biggest financial burden for smaller clubs. However, all the League's big competitions are sponsored and the spokesman said that clubs had not reported the loss of many individual sponsors.

One governing body, which seems to be riding the recession, is the Rugby Football Union although Dudley Wood, its secretary, is "constantly telling people, who want to spend money that we must cut back and maintain the very tight budgeting."

He added: "At a time when sponsors are dropping like flies, we have lost none and all our executive boxes are sold. However, we are by no means complacent and it is a constant concern to keep things in shape. The RFU is rebuilding its East Stand this year since building costs have been so competitive because of the recession."

In smaller sports, sponsorship has proved difficult to retain — last week, the Amateur Swimming Association lost £50,000 after 20 years — although Bob Peach, of the Sports Council, described the situation as "fairly stable."



Lawson: damage done



MANAGEMENT p6
The man who
is putting the
BBC under a
microscope

MEDIA p4

Bosnia —
reading
between the
front lines



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

Group goes to the wall over art

Going to work is becoming a cultural experience

Tesaco is not the first big corporation to acquire art, both for aesthetic reasons and as an investment. But when it moves into its new headquarters at Westferry Circus in London's Canary Wharf, the oil group will give the expression "boardroom art" a whole new dimension. Every floor of the nine-storey building will be crisscrossed with art and artefacts from 1600 to the present day.

The collection has been a secret since Tesaco began to assemble it with the help of Barbara Missett, an art adviser, 20 months ago. It now numbers 550 items, is entirely British, and still growing. Tesaco will not reveal how much has been spent.

Canary Wharf's financial troubles mean that it may be months before anybody can



Oil painting: a gouache and graphite on paper design by Duncan Grant

gaze up through Tesaco's lofty atrium and catch a glimpse of the treasures. But today a flavour of the collection will be revealed when a loan exhibition goes on show as the centrepiece of the 20th Century British Art Fair at the Royal College of Art.

The 35 items on loan span the last 90 years, from the Bloomsbury set and postwar lyrical abstraction to the work of recent artistic luminaries such as Anish Kapoor. Among the photographs and prints are works by David Hockney and Henry Moore. The selection is intended to represent the broad scope of the collection, which now also includes two Constable mezzotints, three Whistler prints and a Gilbert and George postcard collage, as well as folk art, maps and textiles of historical significance.

The primary aim, Ms Missett says, "is to provide stimulation for Tesaco's employees. Corporate collecting is in its infancy in the UK and most companies tend just to buy traditional paintings for the boardroom. Or else some one volunteers to pick up an assortment, or work by young contemporaries, and they call it a collection."

By contrast Tesaco, which already owns large collections in America and on the Continent, has thought out its British art board with the discipline of a battle plan. Its aims are to educate its employees, enrich the new offices and, perhaps above all, ease the culture shock for those uprooted to windswept Docklands from the company's current des res in Knightsbridge.

Among the items in the collection are two works by Duncan Grant of the Bloomsbury Group, as well as a strikingly modern design for a tapestry seat cover by Grant's mistress, Vanessa Bell, the sister of Virginia Woolf. Ms Missett, who was looking for unusual Bloomsbury designs, says: "I never expected to find anything like these. Modern British works at affordable prices have been among the hardest to acquire."

Unusually, since many big companies fear publicity will lead to theft, the collection is being catalogued and the art fair is expected to be just the first of many loans.

ALISON BECKETT

● The 20th Century British Art Fair runs from tomorrow to Sunday at the Royal College of Art, Kensington, Gore, London SW7. Admission £6. Wed, Thurs, Fri 11am-5pm, Sat, Sun 11am-5pm

When truth is a hostage

Granada is under fire for its portrayal of the Beirut hostages, Patrick Stoddart reports

With the possible exception of any programme starring Jeremy Beadle, no television form comes in for more criticism than the drama documentary. Defenders argue that it is a uniquely powerful method of telling stories for which no conventional news footage exists; the critics claim it irretrievably blurs the line between fact and fiction. Accusations of foul play and inaccuracy have tumbled down on the head of almost every producer who has ever been tempted to turn a crisis into a drama.

The only organisation to have escaped such attacks has been the genre, Granada Television, where the journalism is supplied by the *World in Action* team and the drama by the people who brought you *The Jewel in the Crown*, *Brideshead Revisited* and *Coronation Street*. But now Granada is in the firing line over what began as an effort to promote public awareness of one of the more shocking passages in recent history — the taking of the Beirut hostages.

Hostages claims to describe the experiences of John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, the Americans Frank Reed, Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson and (glancingly) Terry Waite.

Despite its unswerving compassion, the film has been publicly and bitterly disowned by virtually all of the hostages. In a jointly-signed letter to the newspapers this week, Messrs McCarthy, Keenan, Waite and Anderson accused Granada of "a serious abuse of public trust" by claiming that *Hostages* is a true story, when it contains scenes which, because of the hostages' reluctance to provide information, are pure fiction. The letter also accuses Granada of persuading Mr Reed to co-operate by giving him the impression that Mr McCarthy

Despite its compassion, the film has been publicly disowned by virtually all of the hostages

was taking part. Despite the fact that both had made their opposition clear.

The Friends of John McCarthy, including his girlfriend Jill Morrell, worked closely with Granada when the project was first mooted, while Mr McCarthy was still a prisoner in Beirut. But as the need for a film drawing attention to his continued captivity became redundant with his release, his allies withdrew their support from Granada, saying that nothing should be done until Mr McCarthy and the other freed hostages felt able to tell their own stories. It was a view shared by a number of directors and producers who had been approached by Granada, and who withdrew their services once the feelings of Messrs McCarthy, Keenan and Waite were made clear to them.

Granada acknowledged the protests but pressed on anyway, saying that the former hostages will feel differently once they see the film. The question, however, is not whether the hostages have been

fairly dealt with, but whether they should have been dealt with at all. Significantly, there have been no objections to Frank McGuinness's stage play, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, which by no coincidence deals with an Irishman, an Englishman and an American incarcerated together in a Beirut cellar. Indeed, a letter from John McCarthy adorns the stage door noticeboard at the Vaudeville Theatre, in London's West End, in which he says he hopes to see the play before it comes off.

The difference is that Mr McGuinness has used fictional characters to illustrate the essential truth of the hostage tragedy, while by using real names and characters, the Granada film could leave viewers thinking that everything it says is straight fact.

Mark Lucas, the literary agent for both Mr McCarthy and Mr Waite, says: "Without information that only John and the others could give, Granada cannot claim that this film has any documentary value."

Mr Lucas dismisses a whispering campaign suggesting that Mr McCarthy's real concern is that *Hostages* might affect the income from his forthcoming book, "Money is not the issue," he says. "John had five years' back pay waiting for him when he came home, and we have done very substantial publishing deals for him, Jill and Terry Waite."

"Nor has this got anything to do with protecting any future film based on the book, because they haven't even decided if they want to allow that yet. In any case, they won't do anything which would exploit the deep compassion that so many people have for them."

Ian McBride, the editor of drama documentaries at Granada, is well aware that *Hostages* could incur the wrath not only of the former captives, but also of the British public. But he says: "It's a very good story, and we were told it by journalists, diplomats and politicians who were involved. We also spoke at length to Tom Sutherland and Frank Reed. We have total confidence in the veracity of our research. We would have been happier if John and the others had felt more at ease with us, but that does not invalidate our film."

"I have never been involved in a project that was the subject of so much analysis and care. In fact we shelved the whole project for a time after John McCarthy's release, because he warned us that the slightest hint of a programme like this could possibly prejudice the chances for Terry Waite and the others who were still being held."

As for the suggestion that using fictionalised characters would have silenced his critics, Mr McBride says: "A lot of newspaper journalists wrote speculative pieces about the hostages, and they used the real names. Had we changed the names, we would have been accused of fudging the issue."



How near the truth? Brian Keenan (as played by Claran Hinds) is dragged to a hiding place by his captors in Granada's *Hostages*

When Granada mounted such re-enactments as the fall of the Czech leader Alexander Dubcek and the Reagan/Gorbachev summit in Reykjavik, actors gave voice to whatever scraps of dialogue researchers could be sure had actually been spoken. But such austere readings of history could not survive the demands of popular television. Viewers more familiar with *The Professionals* than the Prague Spring wanted more tension and fast-moving storytelling in their peak-time programmes, and Granada had to provide it if they wanted to reach a mass audience.

All this added to the cost, and Granada found the extra cash in a fruitful relationship with the American TV company Home Box Office (HBO), which has invested in several of Granada's more recent drama documentaries, including the much-awarded *Why Lockerbie?* and now *Hostages*. In return, HBO gets American screening rights to programmes that find a ready audience in the United States, and it is this special relationship that has prompted some critics to ask whether the demands of a commercially-minded American partner have forced Granada away from the ethical purity of earlier films and deeper into the less-exacting mire of the action movie.

Colin Callender, a senior executive at HBO, British-born, British-trained and a fervent admirer of the Granada team's approach, has always rebutted all suggestions of compromise. "We have never told Granada what they should make, or how they should make it. They come to us with a list of things they are going to do, we invest in the ones we think are right for us."

Granada can list *The Last Days of Mrs Thatcher* and the sequence of films that led to the freeing of the Birmingham Six as examples of drama documentaries it has made without HBO, but it is unquestionable that high gloss projects such as *Hostages* are a far cry from the post-faced rusticity of old, and Granada knows it.

At the press screening, the executive producer, Ray Fitzwalter, noted

that *Hostages* departed from the Granada tradition by being "more drama-led than usual", and that much of the dialogue was not that of the captives themselves, but of the writer, Bernard McLaverty. What is more, the opening credits carry the disclaimer that no endorsement was sought or received from any of the former hostages.

Mr Lucas points out that Granada has, in fact, been seeking out Mr McCarthy and Mr Waite since January, and Mr McBride says that what the disclaimer really

means is that while the hostages were invited to provide information, they were not asked to approve the film's production.

It is said to chronicle such a nipping feud between Granada and people more usually among its most loyal defenders. It is near tragic to see such a well-intentioned project, devoted to some of the most courageous men and women in Britain, descend into suspicion and controversy even before it has been shown.

● *Hostages*, ITV, 8pm tomorrow

The small pleasures of bankruptcy

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon finds a kind of comfort in financial ruin

Mr K at the Official Receiver's office was completing my statement and filling in the reasons for my bankruptcy.

Number One was "the recession" (panic economies hit Fleet Street early and my monthly income divided by 83 per cent between August 1990 and June 1991). In August 1990, the balance of my assets over my debts was about £100,000, mainly in the value of the house. Today, my position is almost exactly reversed.

Number Two was "interest rates" (see my earlier complaints about the usurious 23.8 per cent APR plus charges which Lloyds Bank was charging on my accounts, not letting me know that I could have been paying 16.75 per cent on a business rate).

Mr K said: "I'm going to be writing down these reasons a lot. We're overwhelmed in this office already, but it doesn't seem to make any difference to policy, does it?"

We agreed to meet again next month, when my creditors assemble. I left her surrounded with the documentary debris of my financial ruin and drove away, listening to the news on the (borrowed) car radio. For the first time in three years, I heard about the shocks and horrors on the exchanges, the imminent leap in mortgage prices with calm indifference. No surges of gall through my guts, no leaden despair in my heart, no gripping the wheel and shouting aloud "My God, I'm ruined!" I am already

ruined. They can't get me now.

The removal of the pound from the ERM may save it off but, if you are heading in the direction of the Official Receiver's Office, you may like to know that you can expect to meet some friendly people there (probably better not to wear some flowers in your hair). The officials are scrupulous, tidy-minded and efficient. They do what they say they are going to do, and if you do what they tell you to do, they will treat you with courtesy and fairness. If you don't do what they say, they'll throw you in jail — but that much is clearly understood.

Your companions in the waiting (or receiving) rooms may give you heart. They may be just like you and they will make you feel at home. New boys and girls slope in with polished shoes, nervously gripping their satchels full of papers and asking to be directed to the lavatories. Old hands relax in their chairs, waiting to be called in to see the senior mistress and swapping stories.

In the last six weeks, I have heard about 20 of these stories. They are all much the same, delivered by people who are all roughly the

same age as each other and me. They all ring true.

The bankrupts I have met are all small businessmen and women and self-employed workers. They borrowed money in the late Eighties and the first years of the

1990s. Encouraged, exhorted by the banks, they borrowed, in the first place, to expand their businesses and secured the borrowings against their houses which, we all believed, were soundly valued. When the recession hit, they borrowed more money to keep their businesses and their families going. Declining incomes, rising interest rates and the slump in the value of their only asset locked them into an Iron Maiden of financial torture. Three, at least, of them have used the same words to me, saying "I felt like a rat in a cage, running backwards and forwards, trying to find a way out."

Many of them have said: "I worked hard for 20-25 years to build myself up. I wasn't greedy. I didn't do anything criminal. I took advice from bankers and accountants and I followed it. Now I've got nothing."

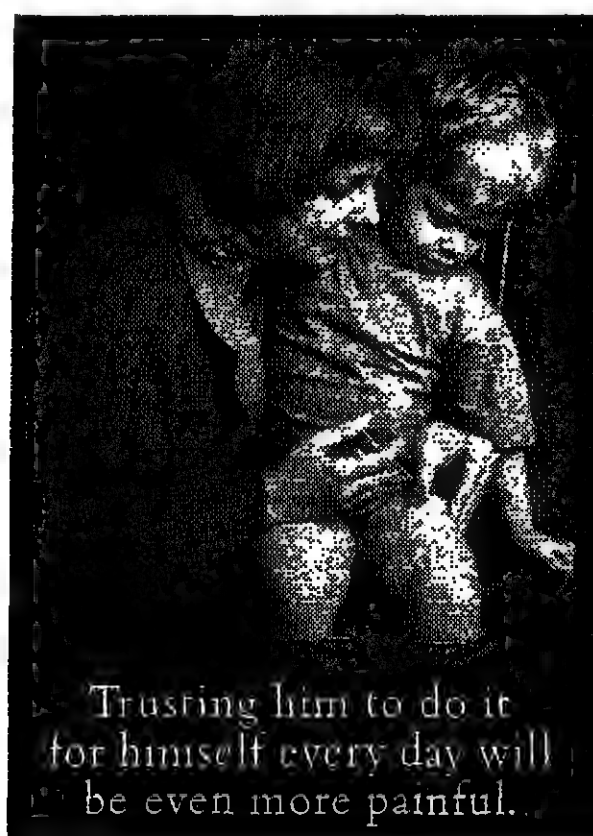
One of them said: "When this happens, you realise that there are

experiences in middle-age from which you may never recover. They can break you. I have always thought of myself as a strong person but I don't know if I can recover from this. I may only have another ten or 15 years of working life in which to put myself straight."

And another: "What seems to me most cruel, what I can't forgive, is that the same government which boasted about the 'property-owning democracy' and encouraged people to borrow money to buy houses should have put the bite on those very people and caused those people to lose their houses, as I have, and everything else with it."

Like old lags in the prison canteen, blaming the police, their briefs and the judges for their convictions, never admitting that they might themselves have some responsibility for their plight, we shift the blame around in our chats. There is, however, some genuine comfort to be gained from the recognition that hundreds of thousands are in the same mess as yourself; and that, while many of them may have been politicos, just as many will have been ordinary middle class who did their best and got trounced and trashed by impersonal, external circumstances beyond their control or understanding.

Mr K is willing to admit these truths in the records she compiles; and future historians will find them, in abundance, when they examine the records of the Official Receiver for the black years of the early 1990s.



Trusting him to do it for himself every day will be even more painful.

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BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

LIFE & TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 1992

ARTS 3

Skip lunch and stop messing about

Keith Waterhouse, novelist, playwright and columnist, talks to Peter Barnard about *Billy Liar*, now on a national tour

Is there life after lunch? This is one of the questions I wish to put to Keith Waterhouse. There is another question, about lunch itself, but I am thinking of withholding it. After all, I have been summoned to see Waterhouse at the Groucho Club in Soho at 4pm which is not, by any stretch of the imagination, lunchtime. So which lunch engagement has taken precedence over that offered by *The Times*? What feast is there at which a *Times* accountant might balk?

"A sandwich in the stalls," A sandwich? In the stalls? The man who lists lunch as his sole recreation in *Who's Who*, the man who has written a book on lunch, the theory and practice thereof, eats sandwiches in the stalls? Gerway.

He does, however. It transpires that they are rehearsing at the Strand Theatre the stage version of his 1988 book, *Our Song*, which is to star Peter O'Toole. O'Toole will not rehearse in draughty halls, only in real theatres, draughty or otherwise. So there they all were, at the Strand, eating sandwiches between the lines.

Now we are all here, at the Groucho, drinking champagne (Waterhouse) and white wine (me). Ourselves, purpose, nominal peg: the opening in Oxford tonight of a National Theatre touring version of *Billy Liar*, the book — later the musical and the film — that made Waterhouse's name in 1959. So I had better ask him something about that, for appearances sake.

The photographer arrives, dressed overall in Canon. We think we might as well get the photographs over with. Seated at the next table is Jeffrey Bernard looking as

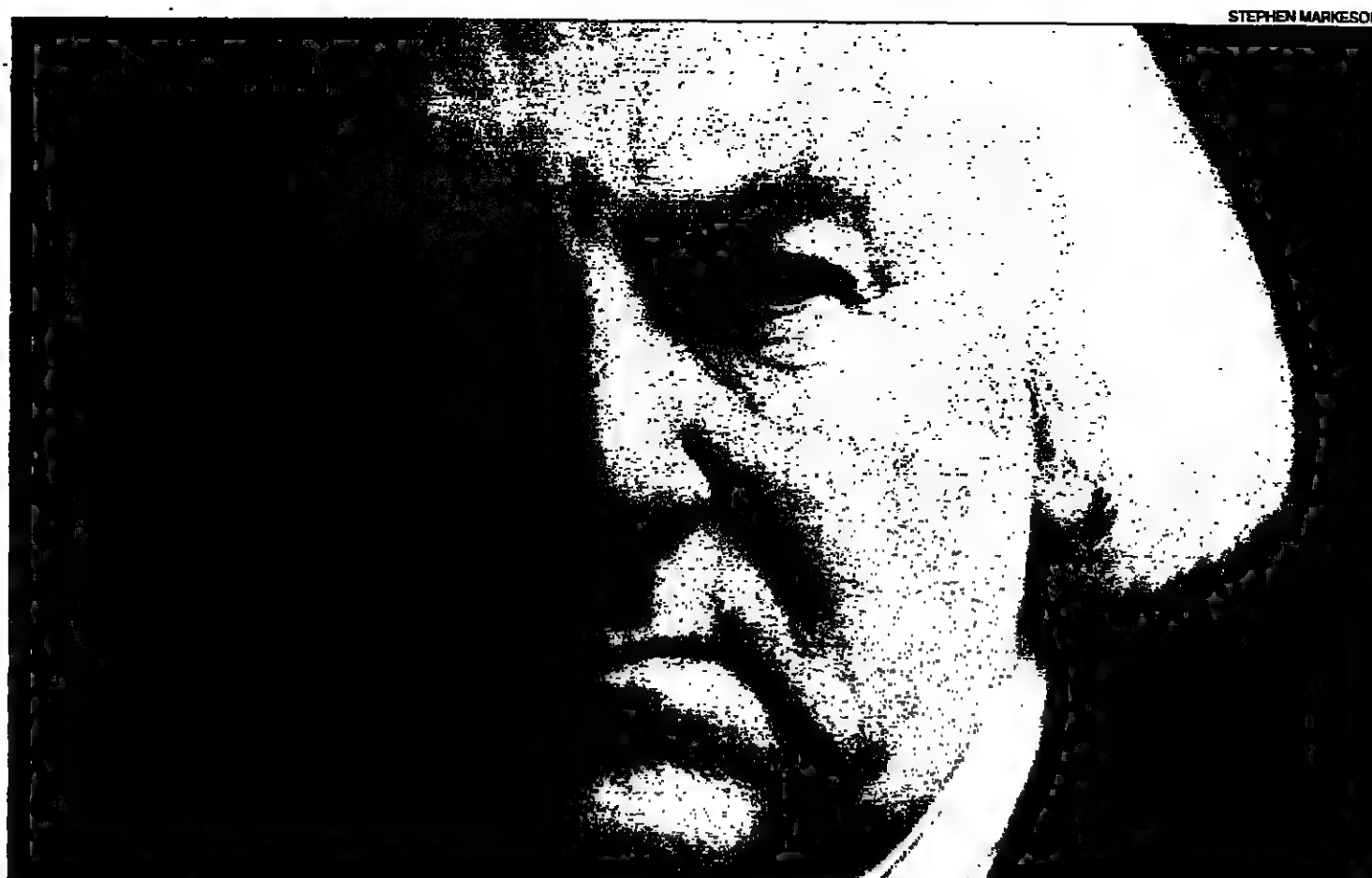
um, well as can be expected. Waterhouse wrote *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*, which also starred Peter O'Toole, so a photograph with Bernard is suggested. Waterhouse kindly approaches Bernard, who kindly agrees. They disappear with the photographer.

Bernard returns to his table companion, who is Sue Townsend of *Adrian Mole* and, now, *The Queen and I*. The place is starting to resemble Plug City. Waterhouse has been pinned in a distant corner by the photographer, who has found some light. Bernard says to me: "First thing I do every Saturday, read your column. *The Times* is the only paper I have delivered."

All right, he may not have said all of that, or exactly that. But happily Waterhouse, almost dapper in his blazer and light flannels, heaves once more into view just as Bernard has unwittingly reminded me of that half-formed question.

"Do you think there is something of the Billy Liar in all of us?" Waterhouse thinks there probably is. "There is a tendency to fantasise, not so much to lie in any deliberate, calculated way, but to daydream. People say, 'I want to be a famous writer, but I can't write'. So they fantasise and it spills over, it becomes 'I've got a book of short stories coming out'."

When *Billy Liar* came out, the title, if not the theme, had already been through several incarnations. This ground-breaking novel of English adolescence began as 10,000 words with the "extremely pretentious" title *The Young Man's Maximilian* which "thank God, I left in a cab," says Waterhouse, evidently relieved not to have it returned. "So



Waterhouse, 62 years old, lists lunch as his sole recreation in *Who's Who* and has written a book on the theory and practice of lunch

then, having promised I was going to do this novel I had to stop mucking about and really write."

The result was to be called *Saturday Night at the Ritz* but Waterhouse read that "somebody called Sillitoe" was bringing out a book called *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. Thus was born *Billy Liar*, "a far better title."

Waterhouse, who is now aged 62, has been writing away ever since. He is, as they say, prolific. He works for four hours every morning and then goes to lunch, which is followed by "messing about time". He says that as a self-employed writer, he finds that after four hours "self-pity sets in and the work starts going downhill fast". This I can vouch for.

Yet he has produced umpteen books, plays and television series, almost all of this output marked by the easy style that only hard labour can produce and by the wit that informs so much genuine insight.

His biggest single audience is certainly for his journalism, which appears twice a week in the *Daily Mail*. He was with the *Mirror* for 16 years until 1986, when his defection became the subject of intense speculation in Medialand.

The truth is straightforward enough. "It was Captain Bob [Maxwell], I felt his presence looming. It was quite clear that he was going to interfere with the column so I

decided to look around, give auditions."

"I had lunch with Maxwell when he took over the *Mirror* and he brought with him some excessively boring material about trade union vote fixing which I politely suggested he send to Woodrow Wyatt. It wasn't my kind of turn. I said look, what you bought when you bought the paper included me. It's as if you're the owner of the Palladium and you've got this act, this juggling act, and you don't want the juggling act suddenly to be a tenor or a unicyclist. If the Palladium doesn't like your act you don't change your act, you go to the Coliseum."

Maxwell, famed for his malapropisms ("Jerusalem wasn't built in

a day") would boom this theatrical analogy back at Waterhouse whenever they met subsequently, but always got the theatres wrong.

So Waterhouse went to lunch with Sir David English ("a clever bugger") then editor of the *Mail*. The juggler had found his Coliseum, and graces it still. Waterhouse still has plenty to say, in his column and through his plays and even, no doubt, to the likes of me. We really must have lunch.

Billy Liar is at the Oxford Playhouse from tonight until Saturday, and thereafter at Chichester, Tunbridge Wells, Dublin Festival, Canterbury, Brighton, Manchester, Coventry, Burton upon Trent, Cardiff, Glasgow, Belfast, Festival, Coleraine, Taunton and Whitley Bay.

OPERA REVIEW: CARDIFF

Called new, but sadly out of date

Opera audiences have the reputation of being by far the most conservative of all theatre-goers, but even their patience will be tested by David Alden's new production of Strauss's *Elektra* for Welsh National Opera, now at the New Theatre, Cardiff. This desperately old-fashioned staging is the sort of thing to give conservatism a bad name.

The show is advertised as being staged by the creators of the *Pet Shop Boys* international tour, which seems designed to appeal neither to admirers of the singers in question nor to opera-goers, and the only possible connection is when something rather nasty happens with a hosepipe (off stage, mercifully). Otherwise the décor by Paul Bond (a mysterious new name for David Fielding) and Charles Edwards is a comprehensive catalogue of every design ic wearily trotted out over the past ten years or more.

Items: the steeply raked stage with a San Andreas fault running through it; the tiled, blood-spattered public lavatory wall; the single naked light bulb (the publicity promised no nudity); the kitchen chairs, which get thrown about the stage; Chrysothemis, a dumb blonde in a Harlow wig (give us a break); ladies stripping down to their slips

and getting covered in blood; best of all the moment when Aegisthus calls for lights, and Elektra hauls on a suburban standard lamp and waves it about at him, though this could of course have been a critical comment on the music at that point.

Similarly with Alden's direction: as the great Ernest Bevin put it, clutch upon clutch upon clutch. The stern, grey-suited wardress (originally a train-bearer) who knocks Klytemnestra about a bit and then gives her a health-restoring injection: the zombie extras rolling round the stage in slow motion (this unfortunately proves catching); the cocktail on a tray; the blood-smearing; the stagger-and-clutch-the-air style of acting.

Oh dear me, it all seemed so exciting ten years ago, but it really won't do any more. One can only echo Wagner's plea: "Kinder, schaffte neues." How sad that so much energy should have been expended on all this passé expressionist junk at the expense of what should be the primary consideration — text. For the most part the standard of German enunciation, especially in the cast (Eva Maria Bundschuh as Chrysothemis, was simply unacceptable.

Entire long passages emerged as pure gobbledygook;



Felicity Palmer (left) and Janet Hardy in *Elektra*

only Felicity Palmer (Klytemnestra) and Phillip Joll (Orestes) sounded as if they understood what they were singing and managed to convey the meaning to the audience. But I suppose in a production that is about someone's vague impression of *Elektra*, communication is of marginal importance, if not downright dangerous.

Apart from Palmer's powerfully and intelligently delivered Klytemnestra, the singing was only serviceable. Bundschuh has one or two useful notes at the top, precious little elsewhere and barely a consonant to her name. Her ungainly gasps for breath — sometimes occurring in the middle of a sentence — were distressing. Joll's unsteadiness of delivery was of little help to

Orestes's long legato lines. In the title role, the American soprano Janet Hardy fielded unsparingly metallic tone with a good cutting edge to it; there was little variety of tone-colour or dynamic. One admired her energy and commitment, but little else.

In advance, much interest centred on Carlo Rizi's first encounter with the score. In the event, his was a conventionally noisy reading, slack in rhythm, unimaginative in the shaping of the musical phrases. There was some coarse playing, not free of accidents. When less than superlatively conducted, *Elektra* can be rather wearing, and so it proved on this occasion.

RODNEY MILNES

NEW MUSIC: LONDON

Fresh from Britain

After the absurdity of its first concert's clash with Holliger and Schiff's jamboree next door, the Nash Ensemble's Twentieth Century Music Series, sponsored by IBM, proceeded on in the Purcell Room on Thursday without rivalry, save the small matter of the celebrations for the beginning of the London Philharmonic's South Bank residency. The programme included a world premiere, Jonathan Harvey's *Louise*, for flute (doubling bass flute and piccolo), violin, viola and cello, whose premise was that individual objects are more enlightening than abstractions.

The flavour of this Buddhism-inspired piece is of the orient. Delicate, subtle colours — extremely difficult, I imagine, to execute with such poise as that displayed here — predominate. But though Harvey's exquisite objects seem isolated in their own spaces, the work still has a momentum that takes us through its silences.

There is, however, no goal, only lovely whispers on the winds. Harvey has as fine a sensitivity for timbres as any composer working today, not discounting Boulez, whose influence is felt strongly here. It is good to hear him continuing to pursue this path.

The broad church of contemporary British music can accommodate just as easily this fragile music as the more muscular kind composed by Colin Matthews. His Three-Part Chaconne (three sections rather than three lines) for string trio and piano left hand, a Nash/IBM commission from 1990, is a powerful, clear study in counterpoints of different colours and musics, culminating in a brilliant dash derived from the piano's opening improvisatory meanderings.

Both pieces were contained in a sandwich whose outer layers consisted of works composed by Britten at each end of his career — the facile *Phantasy*, Op 2 (1932), for oboe and string trio, and the cantata *Phaedra* (1975), for mezzo-soprano, strings and percussion. Sally Burgess sang the later work with an intensity worthy of the tragedy; Lionel Friend conducted purposefully. At the concert's heart, meanwhile, was a well-turned reading by Marcia Crayford and Christopher van Kampen of Ravel's Sonata for violin and cello.

The following evening, the Composers' Ensemble gave more new British music: two songs, "Tenebrae" and "Night", by Sir Harrison Birtwistle, no less, which complete a set of three to texts by Paul Celan. (The first, "White and Light", was composed in 1989.)

Alas, no texts, and Mary

Wiegold's diction was as unclear as her voice seemed fragile. But these songs, which the composer conducted himself, combined directness with a distilled elegance, sparse, dark processions both.

Equally dark, but more overtly and ritually dramatic, was *Louise* (1968), for basset clarinet (Alan Hacker) and piano (Catherine Edwards), while the elegiac *An Interrupted Endless Melody*, for oboe (Melinda Maxwell) and piano (Edwards again), composed in 1991 in memory of Janet Craxton on the tenth anniversary of her death, consisted simply of a lovely melody over a gently sprung accompaniment.

This well designed and executed concert also offered Berio's three Joyce settings, Chamber Music (1953), Morton Feldman's wondrously static, if relatively brief, *Three Clarinets*, Cello and Piano (1971), and the touching little Canzona for oboe and ensemble (1982) that Hans Werner Henze used as an interlude in his opera *The English Cat*. John Woolrich shared the conducting with Birtwistle.

My apologies to both singers for praising Rost Manton instead of Eileen Hulse for the beautiful performance of Mark Anthony Turnage's new work, *Her Anxiety*, in the first concert of the Nash Ensemble's series last Tuesday.

STEPHEN PETTIT



Jonathan Harvey: fine sensitivity for timbres

Last chance... SAM MENDES's production of *Richard III* has been acclaimed for Simon Russell Beale's astounding performance in the title role: loathsome to look at, gleefully sadistic and psychologically acute. Its run at The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623) ends on Saturday, then the play sets off on a 12-week national tour, before visiting Rotterdam and Tokyo. In the new year it arrives at the Donmar Warehouse in London, where Mendes is artistic director, and the production will open next year's Stratford season at the larger Swan theatre.

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Reading between the front lines

Misha Glenny
believes print is best
able to explain the
reasons behind the
Yugoslav conflict

Early one May morning, the crashing of grenades finally gave way to the dawn chorus around the Hotel Ilidza on the outskirts of Sarajevo — even the guns, it seemed on this occasion, had no energy left to fire. Tired and unwashed, I sat drinking coffee with a young Catalan journalist, Jordi Puyol. It was the first time I had met him. Unlike me, he was full of enthusiasm as he had only recently arrived on what was his first foreign assignment. He was one of the handful of journalists who had decided against joining the mass evacuation from Ilidza, which had been voted on a few hours before. The rest were about to leave for the relative safety of Split on the Dalmatian coast.

A few hours later when I and 30 others were negotiating the treacherous mountain route across western Hercegovina, Puyol was walking through a quiet district of Sarajevo when he was suddenly struck to the ground by the force of shrapnel ripping through his chest. "I've been hit," he said and, unprotected by a flak jacket, he began the last two hours of his life.

The danger which journalists have faced during the wars in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina has almost become a cliché. While I do not condone the killing of 30 colleagues (it would reveal a disturbing suicidal tendency if I did), I believe that responsibility for our safety rests with us. Certainly, the organisations we work for can provide us with some protection once we decide to enter a war zone. But that decision to enter or not must be ours alone.

Yet many of those who have made the decision and paid the price were not in a position to appreciate the dangers because of inexperience. Last October, two Japanese journalists were badly injured in what at the time was the wild frontier town of Karlovac. They had just stepped off the plane from Tokyo for their first visit to Europe, and would probably have fared better on Mars.

Knowledge of Yugoslav history and the destructive fanaticism of Serbs and Croats at war has not



Casualty of war: Martin Bell, the BBC television correspondent, goes to ground after being hit by shrapnel in Sarajevo last month

proved a reliable guarantee against being hit. But those of us who knew the country before or those who were experienced war correspondents were at least more realistic about what was in store and were able to take extra precautions. Among the foreign journalists killed, the overwhelming majority were on their first assignment in Yugoslavia.

It was in May 1991, before the war in Croatia had begun in earnest, that my fears about the coming war were confirmed. After a particularly unpleasant incident in the eastern Croatian village of Borovo Selo, near Vukovar, Serb irregulars returned the bodies of three Croat policemen to the authorities in nearby Vinkovci. One had had his back flayed; the second had suffered a severed arm; the face of the third had been mutilated beyond recognition. I and most others working in Yugoslavia before the outbreak of the war were

braced for the brutality. This is not to suggest that when confronted with disembowelled peasants or the shrapnel-ridden bodies of young children I was not nauseated. However, I was not surprised. Some print journalists deserve special praise for their ability to communicate the surreal insanity of the war. The best known are probably Maggie O'Kane and Ed Vulliamy from *The Guardian*, whose courage and determination humble the rest of us.

Regrettably, the finest reporting from the Yugoslav war remains hidden from the general public, as it is to be found on the news agencies. Two journalists in particular, Andrej Gustinic from Reuters and Tony Smith from Associated Press, have managed to spring the tight confines of agency style. Their writing skills, which match those of Ms O'Kane and Mr

Vulliamy, are complemented by a deep understanding of Yugoslav traditions and historical patterns which add the crucial dimension missing from most material published in the British press.

It is unfortunate that these days such print journalism is little more than a luxury, because television sets the agenda. In Yugoslavia, the horrors transmitted by television clearly identified the Serbs as the main perpetrators of crimes. But while television exposed these crimes, it obscured their origin and the medium thus conflated causes and symptoms of the struggle.

Anti-Serb sentiment in Western Europe and the United States has allowed western policy to develop as an emotive response to the level of violence perpetrated by Serbs and not as a political response to the underlying causes of war in Yugoslavia. An emotive response can only exacerbate a political problem. Although television news plays a

crucial role in bringing stories to public attention, in the case of Yugoslavia it is a medium that cannot explain the reasons behind the conflict.

Over the next few months, several journalists, including myself, will be leaving the front line. Mostly, we can no longer cope with a society we once loved but has now imploded with such violence. This exodus may have little immediate impact on the coverage of the region, but it is worth noting none the less — this is a conflict which more than needs to be placed in its historical context. If the media fail to do this, they will help fan the flames of Balkan violence.

● The author is the central Europe correspondent of the BBC World Service. His book, *The Fall of Yugoslavia: The Third Balkan War*, has just been published by Penguin at £5.99.

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Policy needs a package

How much should the presentation of policy shape the policy itself? Or, as I heard too many disgruntled senior civil servants complain, how much should the tail wag the dog?

After nearly 25 years spent trying to put the best possible gloss on government policy, I find that the celebrated fictional lawyer, Perry Mason, had the right answer: the question is incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial.

Policy derived solely in response to publicity is likely to be seen for what it is. Presentation dressed up as policy — or as a substitute for it — can be embarrassing. Presentation running ahead of policy can be useful, if untidy, as I found during the 1985 sterling crisis when my clumsy briefing provided the Treasury with a policy. Policy in a presentational vacuum often comes a cropper.

There is more than a suspicion, for example, that the Cheshire regiment is being sent to be shot at in Bosnia because of the power of television pictures. After Northern Ireland — not to mention the destruction of the exchange rate mechanism — it is felt that we need a better reason for their deployment than for the European Community to be seen to be doing something.

Or take the excruciatingly cynical photo call by David Mellor, leaning on the garden gate with his in-laws and poor wife and sons after his exposure as an intimate of the awful Miss de Sancha. This was presentation substituting for the only acceptable policy — resignation.

But policy formulated without regard for its presentation can, come unstuck, too. Consider the poll tax. Leaving aside its alleged "unfairness" in requiring the dustman to pay the same as the duke, little attempt was made in England and Wales to show, by specimen revaluations of property, that it could have been the lesser of two evils.

Nor will John Major expect to

find praise for last week in the presentational text books. Like some other sterling crises I have known, it was not a pretty sight. Events have a habit of leaving presentation gasping and revealing a poverty of policy.

The week began ominously with the prime minister cancelling his visit to Expo '92 in Seville because of the weight of work without consulting his press secretary, Gus O'Donnell. I know the feeling. Do not kill the messenger.

Worse was to follow as successive rises in interest rates were announced, and then dropped back to where they started as we crashed out of the ERM.

Since then, the government's attempts to justify its obsession with the mark (by blaming the Germans), its crablike retreat from the ERM without so much as a *mea culpa* or the ritual sacrifice of the chancellor, and blundering search for a way forward, have been transparent.

The disappearance from view of a prime minister who has been as accessible to the media as his predecessor was inaccessible served only to confirm the seismic value of the earthquake which hit Whitehall. The divorce of policy and presentation — the essential partnership — was manifestly complete as, one after another, ministers contradicted themselves. I have never been more thankful to be an ex-press secretary.

Mr Major's urgent task is now to restore confidence in himself and his government. He needs economic policies — and fast — which contain inflation, get the economy moving and salvage something European — though not Maastricht — from the debris of a treaty long since wrecked by the Danes.

He also needs to present his policies and himself in a commanding way. He needs to get his act together. Every dog needs a tail.

● The author was press secretary to Margaret Thatcher

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Inner vision: "virtual reality" machines are the hit of the amusement arcades, such as this one at London's Trocadero. But soon they could be on every child's Christmas list

Out of sight - and out of mind?

The "tyrant child" may not be new to parents, but came as a rude surprise to the toy industry. Defined at a recent gathering of the industry as being difficult to please and fast to forsake toys for adult pastimes, the little terror is also proving resistant to age-old selling techniques.

At the Toys 2000 conference in Macclesfield, Cheshire, last Friday, toy manufacturers hoped to find a clue to the mood of the millennium and the marketing strategies that will make sure that our children will be playing with their products.

Not only were they worried by the ravages of the recession, but by the way childhood has been compressed by a combination of precocity and technology.

"Children have become more like adults partly because adults have become more like children," said Robin Wight, the chairman of WCRS, the advertising agency responsible for Sega's mega-drive upwards in the video games market over the past year. "Repositioning Sega as an adult game was largely responsible for it overtaking Nintendo."

Children are so sophisticated (65 per cent of three to four-year-olds apparently recognise the difference between a television commercial and a programme, and know what that toy advertisement can no longer talk down to them or talk to parents over their heads).

Nor can advertisements any longer be positioned for maximum effect within children's programming. Mr Wight says, "since seven out of the top ten favourite children's pro-

grammes in Britain are "adult" programmes such as *Neighbours* and *EastEnders*."

Their favourite advertisements, he claims, are for Carling Black Label - his own company's work - Coca-Cola, Guinness, Andrex, Anchor butter and Pedigree Chum.

With hindsight, the end of childhood - as the toy market knew it - can be dated to the development of the home computer and video games market. Since then, the manufacturers and retailers at the conference agree, the toy mar-

ket for seven to twelve-year-olds has been steadily declining.

Professor Brian Sutton-Smith of the University of Pennsylvania, who will be speaking on "the future of toys" at a second conference to be staged by the British Toy and Hobby Association next month, feels that expensive electronic toys will lead to increasingly solitary play.

"I think that is going to be the great horror story of the future," he says. "Children will live in a fantasy world of their own, having more and more contact with 'virtual reality' toys and video games than with each other. Their play

will be centred on the computer screen and will probably be confined to the bedroom.

"At a recent meeting of American toy manufacturers it was envisaged that children will be buying 'virtual reality' headsets and gloves as the technology becomes cheaper."

The British conference confirmed the potential the industry sees in exploiting "virtual reality" to tame the tyrant child. Also coming our way, according to Professor Sutton-Smith, who feels that sport will be an increasing area of

sounds. We can use tiny hearing-aid batteries which don't leak, can be sealed in and last for the life of a product like this."

Parents are likely to find a whole new generation of electronic toys for the new generation of babies, from newborn to 18 months: the only so far unsaturated market.

Babies are more likely to be born to mothers aged over 35 than at any time in history, according to the Henley Centre for Forecasting, and those mothers tend to be established in careers and want to return to part or full-time work within 14 months of the birth. Bob Tyrrell, of the Henley Centre, believes that such parents are likely to have more money than time and will be anxious about the educational application of toys.

Philip Goodall of the Oxfordshire toy chain Fred Pedaler, and also the chairman of the British Association of Toy Retailers, predicts a continual growth in teaching toys for the very young.

Peter Brown, the UK managing director of Tomy, the Japan-based company known for its state-of-the-art electronic toys, confirmed this as his company's master plan for the millennium. "We are working on new technology toys for very much younger children - from newborn to six months - toys designed specifically to help develop manual dexterity and motor coordination, to help eyes to focus and track. We are developing more electronics for pre-schoolers so that they can play simple

games with words or music, and the toy can 'grow' with them over the years from 18 months to five."

Given the choice between an electronic toy and a traditional one, he claims, "there is no contest: the child will go for the electronic one every time."

Tim Willis, the chairman of the BTHA, disagrees. He produces traditional wooden jigsaw puzzles for Mothercare and other outlets, and has watched his business thrive despite the recession.

Mike Moody of Tyco, mak-

er of the Little Mermaid, one of the most popular girls' toy ranges in recent years, says: "Girls are more interested in traditional toys than boys, and don't go for every passing craze. They provide the continuity of the market."

Graham Benison, the chairman and managing director of Mantel UK, thinks there will be a market for the new generation of talking traditional toys, as his company's Teen Talk Barbie, with a "well-modulated, not monotonous" voice is already proving in America. British parents will not be immune: the doll is due here just before Christmas, priced at about £20.

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Handwriting is on the wall



Davina Lloyd

Graphologists say that it betrays every aspect of your personality. Not merely whether you are neatly organised or creatively ramshackle, but if you are neurotic or well-rounded, short-tempered or possess hidden mathematical talent. Some claim that from a sample of script they can distinguish between pop stars, prime ministers and murderers.

Corporate employers, too, are now asking for a sample of handwriting to accompany job applications. While you are desperately inventing some original diversion to put in the section called "Hobbies" - fell walking, Irish literature, underwater photography - they can analyse the inner you. Half-formed vowels - likely to knock off stationery; back-sloping scrawl - possible backslider; angular italic - efficient, but lacking interpersonal skills; forward-thrusting flourishes - destined for a place on the board.

I have always regarded this science with scepticism. I used to think that your handwriting reveals only what you taught you to write. Now I believe that it reveals one thing - your age. If you can do it at all - decent joined-up writing - you must be over 30. Or perhaps under eight.

Appalled by my 11-year-old's handwriting, I sneaked a look at his classmate's exercise books last open day. His was not the worst. Children of his age don't seem to have had the lessons. Well, not the same lessons that we had. From nursery onwards, they gain the impression that it is more important to get something down on paper than whether anyone else can read it.

After years of finger-painting and freehand, the moving finger of educational change having writ, has moved back to rewrite the rules. Revisionist thinking introduced "handwriting" as a required target of attainment within the national curriculum. "Pupils should be taught the conventional ways of forming letter shapes, lower case and capitals, through purposeful, guided practice in order

to foster a comfortable and legible handwriting style."

The reason for my son's arachnoid scrawlings may well be that his class group has spindled along just ahead of the national curriculum requirement. His sister, though four years younger, has a finer grasp of the pen and penmanship.

However, I am afraid that it may be too late. Like the rest of their generation, my children regard handwriting as some lost, anachronistic art, like whittling or darning socks. When he was first learning to form letters, my son was prone to writing "e" backwards. I pointed this out to him as constructively as I could, but he responded with unanswerable logic: if you know it's supposed to be an "e", why does it matter?

Maybe the nuns were right: they warned us that using anything but a Quink-filled fountain pen would ruin your writing. By the time they get round to real writing, our children will have had a glorious range of scribbling sticks to make their mark on the world. Brilliant non-toxic crayons designed to fit the chubby infant fist; pens that write in two or more hues; luminous magic markers. If you can create such beautiful effects with a sweep or squiggle, who cares if your "e" is the wrong way? The pencil is mightier than the word.

As dictaphones saw off shorthand as an essential skill for secretarial employment, I suspect that new technology will see out manual forms of calligraphy. For the antiquated species of scribes and scribes, the handwriting is on the wall.

'Children will live in a fantasy world of their own, having more contact with video games than with each other'

Fly free USA with our three exclusive offers

Stars and bars

LOS ANGELES is almost 400 miles south of San Francisco, and a very different kind of place. Los Angeles was called by Dorothy Parker "a collection of 63 suburbs in search of a city".

The old centre is now El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park. It still has a Spanish flavour, with street vendors offering Mexican snacks, and Spanish musicians playing at the open-air cafes - and remember there is sun all the year round in LA.

Otherwise the city is a sprawling giant, covering 400 square miles. It is a great industrial centre, with the entertainment industry the



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TOKEN 8

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Life-saving

"FINDING your baby not breathing and being unable to do anything is an appalling thought for any parent," says Nicholas Young, director of the British Red Cross's UK operations. So, in an attempt to make parents feel less helpless, the Red Cross is offering free infant resuscitation courses throughout the

country. The courses cover artificial respiration, chest compressions and measures to prevent asphyxia as well as deal with it. Further details from your local Red Cross.

Buy-tech

THE latest Science Museum catalogue is packed with intriguing presents. There's a rocket kit (£29.95), an illuminated pocket microscope (£13.50), a radio that runs on solar power (£24.95), balloon-powered cars which work on the basic principles of rocket propulsion (£5.50), and a mini hot air balloon (£8.95). Write to: Science Museum Brainwaves, Freepost SU361, Dept 5317, Hendon Road, Sunderland SR9 9AD.

Pressure valves

FINALLY, it's official: working mothers are stressed, according to a survey carried out by Gallup for *She* magazine. Of the 1,000 working mothers surveyed, all in their twenties to forties, 65 per cent considered their lives stressful. How do they combat it? For 67 per cent a hot bath is the preferred method of relaxation, while 50 per cent turn to exercise. The third most-successful form of stress release is shopping. Sex is at the bottom of the list.

V.MCK.



A big hand from the stars

biggest of them all. Step forward, Hollywood! But Hollywood is now, sad to say, a rather sleazy area. However, you can go on tours of the former houses of great movie stars, and outside Mann's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard you can see their hand and footprints. Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards are where the entertainment moguls and lawyers eat, and Beverly Hills, to the west, is where they live.

Beyond that you come to the Pacific, and the sandy beaches of Santa Monica. The film and TV studios are now further out, around Burbank and Universal City. There are tours to Universal Studios and the NBC TV Studio. Disneyland is 50 miles away in Orange County.



MANAGEMENT

BBC under a microscope

Michael Starks
outlines a
strategy to bring
profound change
in public
broadcasting

Tomorrow, I shall be talking at a CBI management conference about the radical change at the BBC, termed Producer Choice, to which Michael Grade drew the nation's attention last month in his Edinburgh television lecture. I was glad he mentioned the subject, even though I disagreed with most of his observations, and I am pleased, too, that interest now reaches beyond broadcasting circles into the wider management world.

Producer Choice is a bold scheme to harness market forces to public service purposes. It should help to sharpen and strengthen the fundamental public service character of the BBC, but, at the same time, it challenges custom and habit.

It will remove public funding from under-utilised plant, from an excess of dispersed properties, and from low priority overheads and put it into programmes instead. Those who regarded a chunk of the licence fee as theirs almost by right will be funded in future only if they are contributing to the BBC's public service purposes in the most effective and efficient way. Not only will they be accountable for this, but their quality and costs will be compared with outside alternatives.

For programme-makers, whether producers or their craft and technical colleagues, Producer Choice means concentrating resources on what they do best — putting good work on the screen and on the air. It will give them new



The face of change: Michael Starks says Producer Choice will sharpen and strengthen the character of the BBC

responsibilities, for managing the full costs of their activities. But, for those who run a building the BBC no longer requires, provide a tier of management which could be abolished or staff a support service which will be used less in future now that its full costs are known. Producer Choice is uncomfortable. The BBC is reducing in size.

Producer Choice will begin throughout all the BBC's domestic services — television, radio, regional broadcasting and news and current affairs — next April, after an 18-month period of preparation. It remains a tight timetable. My job is both to stick to it and to make sure that the change happens as smoothly as possible.

The main outline of the new system is straightforward. In future, on a rolling annual basis, each of the BBC's television and radio channels will propose a programme strategy in line with the BBC's public service remit, specifying the

range and mix of programme types it intends to broadcast.

The remit will, of course, be publicly debated in the context of the BBC's charter renewal. Given the remit, programme strategy is the management tool that starts to turn editorial purpose into programmes.

Each channel will then receive its funding. If independent producers can make the same types of programmes at the same high quality at a lower price, this will limit the funding.

The channel controllers will then commission programmes, and accept offers, both from BBC programme-makers and from independent producers (who have a 25 per cent quota in television under government policy). Programmes will be funded at a full cost and the programme-makers will buy their operational and support services from inside and outside the BBC.

The corporation will, however, continue to make most of its own programmes. In nearly all areas, the in-house operations will retain a dominant role within a mixed economy. But they will do so on merit, not through protective rules.

We aim to make sure that the in-house operations are competitive before the competition starts in April.

● By shedding under-utilised capacity, following systematic studies in television, news and current affairs, and, most recently, radio.

● By making a substantial reduction in overhead costs, following a review whose main work has been completed this month.

● By further reducing the property portfolio.

● By business planning, comparing internal and external prices, and matching in-house resource costs to the purchasing intentions of our programme-makers.

● By undertaking a major

training programme for 2,000 staff in new skills and responsibilities, and by retaining our training commitment for the future.

I am frequently asked why the BBC has embarked on Producer Choice before the main public and political debate about the renewal of its charter. That debate should be about the BBC's public service purposes, and why they justify public funding. It will focus on the BBC's programme remit after 1996.

However, the BBC must have the management means of translating its purposes into high quality programmes. And, there is the tricky question of the BBC's size. It is not enough to say that we will do something about it after 1996.

Nor is there a magic headcount target. The right size is what is needed to do the job effectively and efficiently. Producer Choice is designed to find it.

● The author is the BBC's project director, Producer Choice.

Head hunting at the top schools

PR and marketing assume a bigger role as more leading jobs in education fall vacant

"Certainly the job description has changed," says Elizabeth Digory, the headmistress of St Albans' High School and president of the Girls' Schools Association, commenting on the new breed of headmasters and headmistresses who have emerged over the last 20 years. "Although heads have always had responsibility for their own budgets, now they spend much more time managing, and fewer and fewer of us do very much teaching."

One cause for the recent spate of heads of well-known schools resigning "prematurely" has been a breakdown in the parent-head relationship. Miss Digory sees the public relations side of the job as critical.

Dr Arthur Hearn, the general secretary of the Independent Schools' Joint Council, thinks the job of head has "intensified rather than changed. The pressures are greater than they were. Marketing is beginning to play a much bigger role, and the most effective marketing is still by word of mouth. This means happy and successful pupils, and satisfied parents. The result is a stronger drive to increase quality, and a more exacting job for the head."

Sophisticated management skills are also needed, says David Jewell, the Master of Haileybury and recently chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. "Heads must know about management by objectives, spans of control and so on. They need to be financially literate," he says.

All three agree that above all these new requirements,

remains the essential ability to relate well with children and colleagues.

In spite of the undisputed challenges of the job, however, Roger Griffiths, membership secretary of the Headmasters' Conference and former head of Hurstpierpoint College, reveals an interesting phenomenon. "Many heads, myself includ-

selection: and that because they have children, that they know all about schools and education. In addition, Dr Hearn is aware of some schools whose governors believe that they do not have the time necessary to carry out all the selection procedures adequately.

The result is a slow migration towards enlisting the help of professionals. Diana Ellis, former headmistress of Lavant House, now heads the education practice at management selection consultants, NB Selection. She agrees current practice often leaves much to be desired.

"Quite often, the secretary to the board, or the bursar, plays a very active role; these people are appointing someone very senior to themselves, and later this can be awkward. Other difficulties arise when governors half consult the staff and then appoint someone completely different. That person never gets the wholehearted approval of their underlings."

Miss Ellis says independent advisers have the advantage of not being involved in the internal politics, that their appointment shows that the governors do think analytically and that they manage the process professionally, keeping candidates informed.

Mr Jewell, who has himself advised several governing boards, argues that, with the help of a serving or very recently retired head, most boards should be able to manage without professional help, although he process must be carried out with care.

CLARE HOGG



Elizabeth Digory

ed, begin to feel the need for a change of direction in their mid-fifties. Simon Langdale (Shrewsbury), Roger Ellis (Marlborough) and John Cook (Epsom College) are all examples."

This phenomenon, together with the unexpected resignations reported in the press, is resulting in a surprising number of vacant posts.

The spotlight has turned on the selection process for filling these posts. There is a general criticism that many governors, being business people themselves, imagine that they are experts in

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Manchester Central Hospitals & Community Care NHS Trust is a first-wave Trust with an expenditure for 1992/93 of £130m and a workforce of 6,000. In association with the University of Manchester Medical School, the Trust is an undergraduate teaching and research centre comprising Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, Manchester Dental Hospital and

associated Community Services. We are committed to being the preferred supplier of high quality healthcare within the North West, fostering high quality medical, scientific and health service related research, and providing education and training to the highest international standards for all healthcare professionals. In short, we aim to be world-class.

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Already a Chief Executive or possibly a Deputy Chief Executive, ideally in a large healthcare organisation, you will be able to illustrate, through genuine achievements, the ability and potential to manage such a complex organisation. Certainly, you must be able to demonstrate both an ability to stimulate

the Executive Board to define and articulate corporate strategy and possess the strong management skills necessary to secure its implementation.

An application form, together with a job description and information pack, are available from Richard Sugden, Director of Personnel, Manchester Central Hospitals & Community Care NHS Trust, Cobble House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL. Tel 061 276 4795. Closing date for receipt of application forms is Friday 9th October 1992.

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The pending retirement of the current Chief Executive together with the Local Government Review and its implications form a fascinating and challenging backdrop for this appointment.

Burnley, which expects to achieve Unitary Authority status, has a revenue turnover of £40m and varied capital programme of £15m. We also sponsor a number of major Government initiatives including an Enterprise Zone and an Inner Urban Area Programme.

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Reflecting our commitment to providing the highest possible standards of service to our population of c.90,000, you will be expected to challenge traditional attitudes and practices, with the objective of making our name synonymous with forward-thinking in the Local Authority arena. As the Council's principal policy adviser on strategic and corporate issues and organisational development, you will be in a prime position to influence its direction and develop a new culture to match the challenges ahead.

BURNLEY

You must be able clearly to demonstrate strong communication, management and leadership skills, evidenced by an excellent track record at senior level within a Local Authority or other large and complex organisation. Your ability to forge a strong partnership between officers and elected members will reflect your level of interpersonal skills and a clear appreciation of the issues facing Local Government.

Burnley is situated in North East Lancashire, connected to the M6 by the M65 motorway. Our 43 square miles include large rural tracts along with the urban cores of Burnley and Padiham.

A first-class salary and benefits package is available. For an informal chat please contact Steve Priestley on 0282-25011 ext 2117.

For an application form and information pack, please contact Geoff Pickles or June Wilkinson - Personnel Section - Chief Executive Officer's Department, Town Hall, Burnley, Lancashire (0282 - 25011 ext 2163/2164). Closing date: Friday 16th October 1992.

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DIRECTOR c. £20,000

The Child Psychotherapy Trust is a London-based charity, unique and pioneering in its aim to make NHS treatment for emotionally damaged children more widely available throughout the UK. The Trust's vision is to create awareness of the urgent need to develop child psychotherapy within child mental health teams and to be responsible for funding a full programme of training grants, innovative projects and new trainings outside London. This new post is funded by The Department of Health.

Currently there are only 225 Child Psychotherapists practising within the UK. This number is disproportionately low compared with the number suitable for training, chiefly because trainees have to pay costs themselves for a long and intensive post-graduate training.

With the Association of Child Psychotherapists, the official body of the profession, the Trust is undertaking a campaign, supported by major children's organisations, aimed at the highest levels of decision taking to seek ways of funding training within the NHS to complement the existing career structure for qualified Child Psychotherapists.

The Director will report to the Trustees and be responsible for a fulltime administrative. The Director will help to define and implement a strategic plan and be responsible for an extensive fund-raising and public relations campaign to develop services nationally and regionally.

We are looking for commitment to our objectives, an outstanding track record appropriate to our needs and management experience. Essential personal qualities are tact and confidence combined with excellent presentation skills.

Please send a full CV in confidence to:

Dilly Dene, Chair,
The Child Psychotherapy Trust,
c/o THE, The Tavistock Centre,
120 Belknap Lane, London, NW3 5BA

Closing Date: 6th October 1992.

New the forecast — for Mars

Scientists hope that a close-up look at the red planet will help them understand the Earth's weather. Nicholas Booth reports

At the end of this month, NASA will launch its first probe to Mars for 17 years. Known as Mars Observer, it has been delayed by hurricane Andrew, which blew dust into the large vehicle assembly building at Cape Canaveral. Ironically, a major purpose of the mission is to make detailed observations of Martian weather, including global dust storms. "Mars Observer will help us answer many of the unknowns in our knowledge about the red planet," says Professor Andrew Ingersoll, of the California Institute of Technology. "It will give us our best view of the atmosphere and the surface."

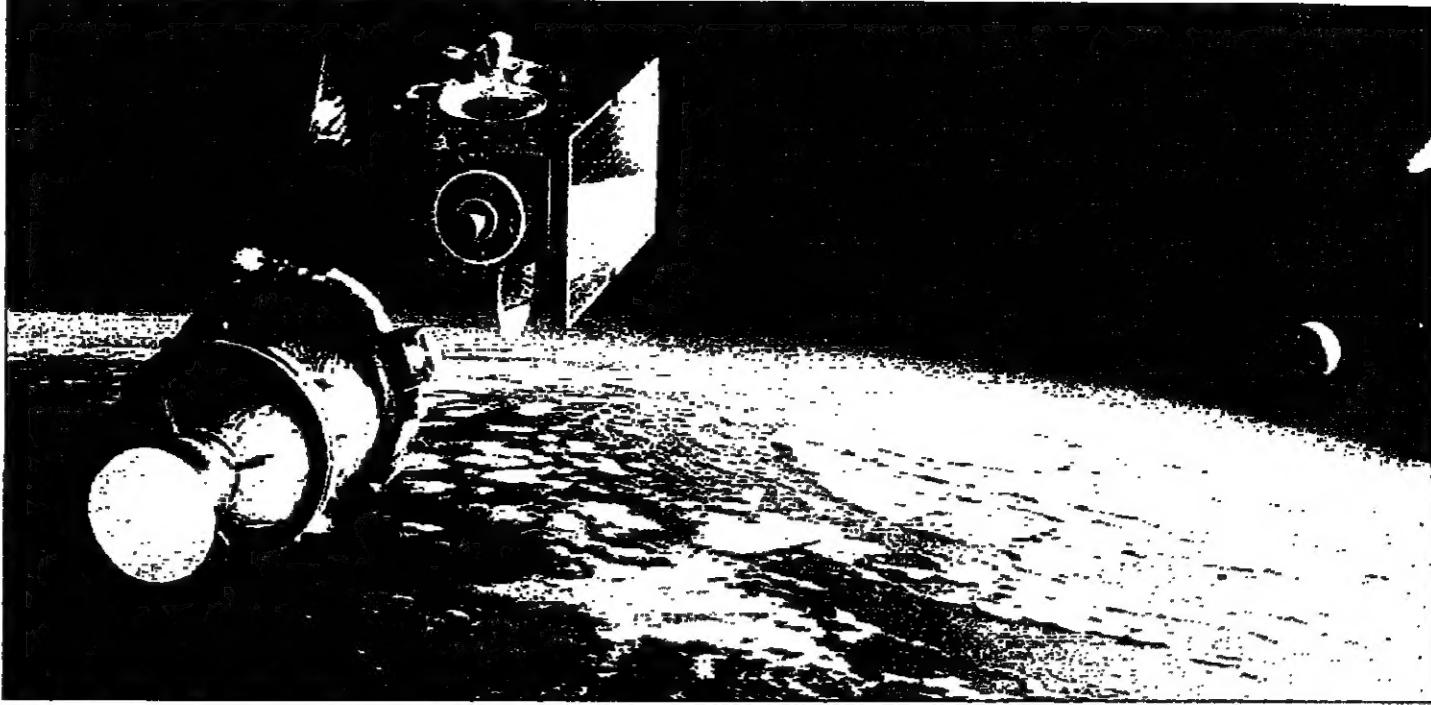
Earlier probes have shown that Mars has weather, despite the relative thinness of its atmosphere (the surface pressure is less than a hundredth of our own). Before the space age, telescopic observations had revealed dark markings on the orange-coloured surface. The movement of these darker regions initially suggested vegetation, but now we know they are clouds of dust blown around the surface, revealing darker rock underneath.

Astronomers had also noted that the whole planet could become engulfed in dust storms. When the first probe to orbit Mars, NASA's Mariner 9, arrived in 1971, it had to wait for months for dust to clear. Mariner 9 mapped the surface in

detail, revealing large volcanoes, a giant rift valley and evidence of the flow of water in earlier epochs. Mariner 9 was followed by the launch of two Viking spacecraft in the autumn of 1975. They dropped two landers on to the surface, returning the first views of the planet. The landers carried an extensive array of instruments, including an automated meteorological station. The first weather report from another world was returned on the evening of July 20, 1976: "Light winds from the east in the late afternoon, changing to light winds from the south-east after midnight. Maximum winds around 15 miles per hour. Temperatures ranged from minus 83C to minus 33C. Pressure steady at 7.7 millibars."

The Viking landers were able to monitor weather at the surface for more than four years. Each winter, they observed that the atmospheric pressure dropped by as much as a fifth, the result of carbon dioxide freezing at the north pole. They also observed dust storms, which engulfed the whole planet and dimmed the sun.

"We'd like to know what determines whether localised storms will go global," says Professor Ingersoll. Mars Observer will be able to monitor the evolution of dust storms during the mission's two years. Studies of the circulation of the



Craft with a view: Mars Observer will carry the latest equipment, allowing it to scrutinise the surface from only 240 miles up

Mars atmosphere will assist Earth climate studies.

Mars has a day just 40 minutes longer than our own, so it undergoes a similar diurnal range of weather. But it has no oceans, which on Earth complicate our understanding of the circulation of our atmosphere. As the same laws of physics apply on Mars, it presents atmospheric scientists with a far simpler arena to test their theories of atmospheric circulation. The most puzzling questions about Mars concern its past climate.

Although the atmosphere today is relatively dry, there are times when it holds water in the form of vapour or clouds. And the surface is scarred by channels that seem to have been carved by running water. The atmosphere in the past must have been denser to allow water to flow as a liquid. Mars Observer will help understand where that water came from and where it went by accurately mapping the surface, both visually and by returning spectroscopic information.

The spacecraft will carry the latest in technology. "The computing power, radio transmission and data-handling capability have improved twenty-fold since the early 1970s," says David Evans, the Mars Observer project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. From an orbit only 240 miles above the planet, Mars Observer will use the latest imaging-enhancing technology.

But scientists will have to wait almost a year for the first observations. The craft will not reach its

destination until next August, and with consummate bad timing the red planet will be in conjunction with the sun. To observers on Earth, Mars will pass behind the sun. Mars and the first data from Mars Observer will not emerge until the start of 1994.

Mars Observer has a radio transmission system to relay data back to Earth. "We've repeatedly tested the relay system and it's working well," Mr Evans says. "Our only hope is that there will be something to interrogate."

Within five years, genetically engineered drugs might allow patients to live with tumours

Reaching a truce with cancer

There is no middle road with today's drugs: you either win or lose. But in about five years there could be a third outcome: to such battles, a draw or truce, in which the tumour or the virus keeps its conquest but advances no further.

Cancer spreads as a result of malignant cells breaking loose from a tumour and travelling in the bloodstream to another part of the body, where they settle down, divide and grow into new tumours. The process is called metastasis.

Doctors discovered many years ago that metastasising cells find some organs much more hospitable than others. An example is the spread of malignant melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, to the liver. Sebastiano Gattoni-Celli, a professor at the New England Medical Centre in Boston in the United States, has

discovered why malignant melanoma cells grow and divide so fast in the liver, and how to stop them dividing.

This suggests that within five years or so drugs may be developed that "freeze" the growth of some tumours at an early stage. Patients would live with tumours as some people live with shrapnel or bullets in their bodies today.

Professor Gattoni-Celli has found that malignant melanoma cells in the liver have receptors on their surfaces which are specifically stimulated by growth factors produced by the liver but not at all, or

in much smaller quantities, by other organs. Stimulus of the receptors causes rapid growth and cell division. But this can be stopped, he has shown, by genetic engineering.

He blocked tumour growth using a gene that stops the growth messages from getting through to the nuclei of cancer cells. Orders to cells to divide and grow have to come from their nuclei. Drugs are being developed that are based on the substance made by the gene which stops the growth message getting to the nucleus.

The same approach may be used

to freeze other cancers even after they have spread from the original site to other parts of the body.

Before the end of the century, similar drugs are likely to be developed that could check the progress of HIV, which can lead to AIDS. Once HIV has invaded the white blood cells, there is no way of getting the virus out. The virus integrates its own DNA with the cells so that the two are indistinguishable. But ever more potent combinations of drugs now being developed may make it possible to stop the further spread of HIV from cell to cell in the blood.

Chris McGuigan, a chemist at Southampton University, has made at least 368 compounds in search of one that offers real advantages over AZT, the main drug used today to treat AIDS. AZT is limited by its toxicity, and by the need for the cells it has to work in to supply it with extra chemical add-on groups before it can do its job. Some blood cells, macrophages, cannot do this. They may act as a reservoir from which HIV spreads even though AZT holds it in check elsewhere.

Dr McGuigan has made a proto-drug — number 221 among

the 368 — which tests on HIV-infected cells suggest is much less toxic than AZT and will stop the virus replicating in macrophages because it needs no add-ons to do its job. Tests in mice have begun, with encouraging results.

S (for Southampton) 221 will not cure AIDS because it will not flush HIV out of cells which are already infected. But several other such drugs are under development, while three or four are being tested in clinical trials.

If cocktails of such drugs can allow HIV-positive people to live normal or near-normal lives, then a truce with AIDS, if not a cure, might be achieved. But the infected person will remain able to infect others.

JOHN NEWELL

The author is the science and medicine editor of the BBC World Service.

UPDATE

Thinning ozone

THE ozone layer over Antarctica has shown a substantial decrease in the past month, the World Meteorological Organisation has reported. Between mid-August and mid-September, ozone levels were between 30 and 35 per cent lower than the averages recorded between 1957 and 1977, before the ozone hole appeared. The early decline was due to extremely cold air reaching the lower stratosphere, according to Rumen Bojkov, head of the organisation's Environmental Service.

Meat monitor

SCIENTISTS at the University of the West of England — formerly Bristol Polytechnic — have devised a sensor which could be placed in individual packs of meat in a supermarket and would automatically indicate if the contents have begun to go bad. The sensor, described by Vincent Shiers at a meeting at the Royal Society last week, incorporates dyes which are sensitive to the vapours released by meat as it begins to spoil. The dye would be incorporated into the wrapper and would provide more information than date-stamping.

Bee line

THE scent of the queen bee, which determines how the workers behave, has been isolated and patented by two scientists from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. The queen's mandibular pheromone encourages the worker bees to cluster around the queen, and might be used commercially to encourage bees to pollinate plants. Bees pay about 60 per cent more visits to crops sprayed with the pheromone, the scientists report in *American Scientist*. The patent has now been licensed to a company in Vancouver, Phero-Tech, which is seeking to produce a synthetic version.

Royal prescription

MEDICINE cabinets crowded with unwanted pills and potions are a national problem that goes to the very top, the magazine *Pharmaceutical Marketing* has disclosed. When a pharmacist from Ainsworths, the royal family's homeopathic supplier, was summoned recently to Buckingham Palace, he found that the Queen's medicine cabinet contained 60 or so remedies that needed sorting out. He has now received instructions to tidy up the Queen Mother's cabinet at Clarence House.

PERSONAL

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

BRAZILIAN NAVAL COMPLEX
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TENDER
Notice is hereby given that the B.N.C. will accept bids for 170 Upper Brazilian Naval Complex, 89410-200, in accordance with the terms of the tender documents and specifications available at the B.N.C. office, 89410-200, on 22 September 1992, at 10.00 hours. The tender documents and specifications are available at the B.N.C. office, 89410-200, on 22 September 1992, at 10.00 hours. The tender documents and specifications are available at the B.N.C. office, 89410-200, on 22 September 1992, at 10.00 hours.

SERVICES

MARINE There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the late Mrs. M. J. M. on October 3rd at 2 PM. Rev. Canon J. M. M. will officiate. All are invited. Tel: 071-273 1665.

WANTED

ALL Old Old Patents & Water-claims wanted. Condition: Good. Tel: 071-273 1665.

FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS
SIMPLY RED
GENESIS, THE CURE
ON 5TH AUGUST
Phonons, Sargun, Les Mins. All pos. report & the best. Tel: 071 323 4480

ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA

TWICKENHAM
SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY
PACKAGES FROM £250
MATCH TICKETS
TEL: 0727 45611

WEDDING MORNING SUITS

EVENING TAIL SUITS
Tel: 071 240 2310

A BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPER

Order today for a week. Free home delivery. Tel: 071 240 2310

ALL SEATS, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00

Football/Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, etc. Tel: 071 240 2310

ALL TICKETS, Phantom, etc.

Phantom, etc. Tel: 071 240 2310

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LEGAL NOTICES

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

In the Matter of AMERICAN BIOMATERIALS CORP., A Virginia Corporation, Debtor.

Chapter 11
Case No. 87-07316

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF AMERICAN BIOMATERIALS CORP. OF LAST DAY FOR FILING PROOFS OF INTERESTS AND TENDERING STOCK CERTIFICATES

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF AMERICAN BIOMATERIALS CORP. (the "Company")

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, on December 4, 1992, American Biomedical Corp. ("ABC") will file a Chapter 11 reorganization plan with the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of New Jersey ("Court").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an Order dated September 23, 1992, confirming the Plan of Reorganization ("Plan").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an Order dated August 3, 1992, which on October 30, 1992, as the last day ("Last Day") for stockholders to file proofs of interest and tender stock certificates.

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RENTALS

KENSINGTON SW10 New 2 bed flat, 1.5 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

MALDEN VALE W9 3 bed maisonette, 1.5 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

MAYFAIR W1 1 bed flat, 1 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

PICCADILLY W1 2 bed flat, 1.5 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

RATHFRY W1 1 bed flat, 1 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

ST. JAMES'S W1 1 bed flat, 1 bath, communal gardens, long/short let, £180pw. Tel: 071-273 1665

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ST. J

BBC1

6.00 **Ceeftax** (338844) 6.30 **Newsweek News** (87171551)
 8.05 **Ceeftax** (338844) 9.00 (6105006) 9.30 **The Solent Way** (r) (97071)
 9.00 **News** regional news and weather (4300071) 10.05 **Playdays** (s)
 (9232205) 10.25 **Barney** (r) (4483358) 10.35 **Hudson and Halls**
 prepare lamb curry and curried rice salad (r) (5139667)
 11.00 **News** (Ceeftax), regional news and weather (8958087) 11.05
Aussies. The second of a five-part exploration by Jack Pizzey of the
 Australian way of life (5329808)
 12.00 **News** (Ceeftax) and weather (7940532) 12.05 **The Incredible**
Machine. A documentary about new camera techniques which make
 it possible to examine the workings of the human body (r)
 (2063174) 12.55 **Regional News and weather** (79360882)
 1.00 **One o'Clock News** (Ceeftax) weather (53700)
 1.30 **One o'Clock News** (Ceeftax) (4391113) 1.50 **Going for Gold**. Quiz
 game presented by the affable Henry Kelly (s) (4332290)
 2.15 **Film: Puzzle** (1978) starring James Franciscus and Wendy Hughes.
 Routine Aussie thriller about a woman who turns to her first
 husband for help after her second commits suicide, leaving her
 with an unexpected problem. Directed by Gordon Hessler
 (266648)
 3.50 **Opposites Attract** (r) (s) (8830445) 4.00 **The Further**
Adventures of Superfied (r) (8732919) 4.15 **Postworth & Co** (r)
 (851064) 4.35 **Heartbeat**. Fiction making series. (Ceeftax)
 (8519464)
 5.00 **Newsround** (3470984) 5.10 **The Village by the Sea**. The first of a
 new six-part drama series. (Ceeftax) (3209716)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceeftax) (s) (187464). Northern Ireland: Inside
 Ulster
 6.00 **Six o'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceeftax)
 6.30 **Regional News** (777)
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (667). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Telly Addicts**. Television trivia quiz (s) (3071)
 7.30 **EastEnders**. (Ceeftax) (5514)
 8.00 **Citizen Smith**. John Sullivan's classic pre-Only Fools and Horses
 comedy series starring Robert Lindsay (r) (Ceeftax) (2919)
 8.30 **Point a Callum**. A comic sketch series. (Ceeftax) (47454)
 9.00 **Nine o'Clock News** with Michael Burk. (Ceeftax) Regional news
 and weather (1548)